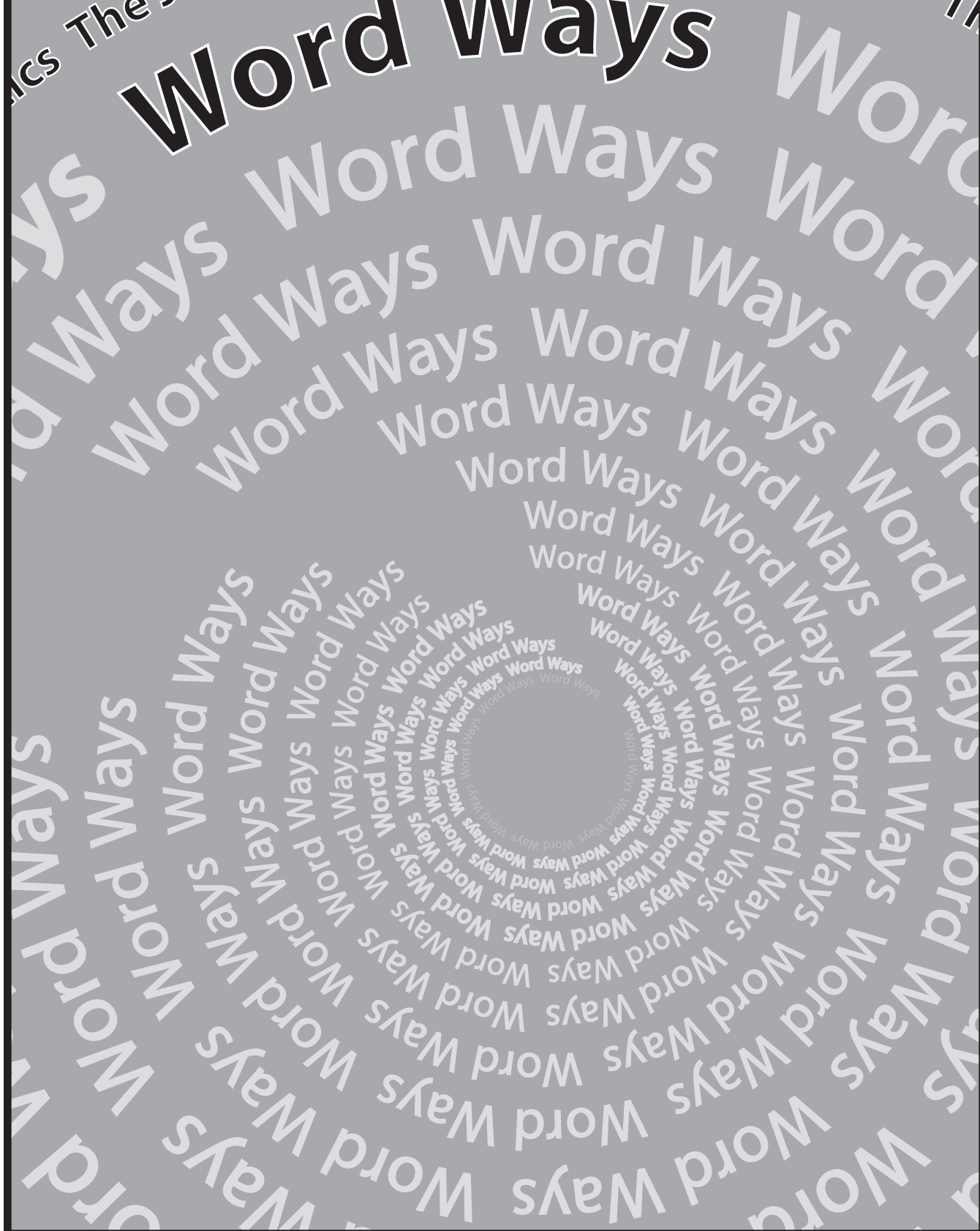


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Word Ways



WORD WAYS® The Journal of Recreational Linguistics

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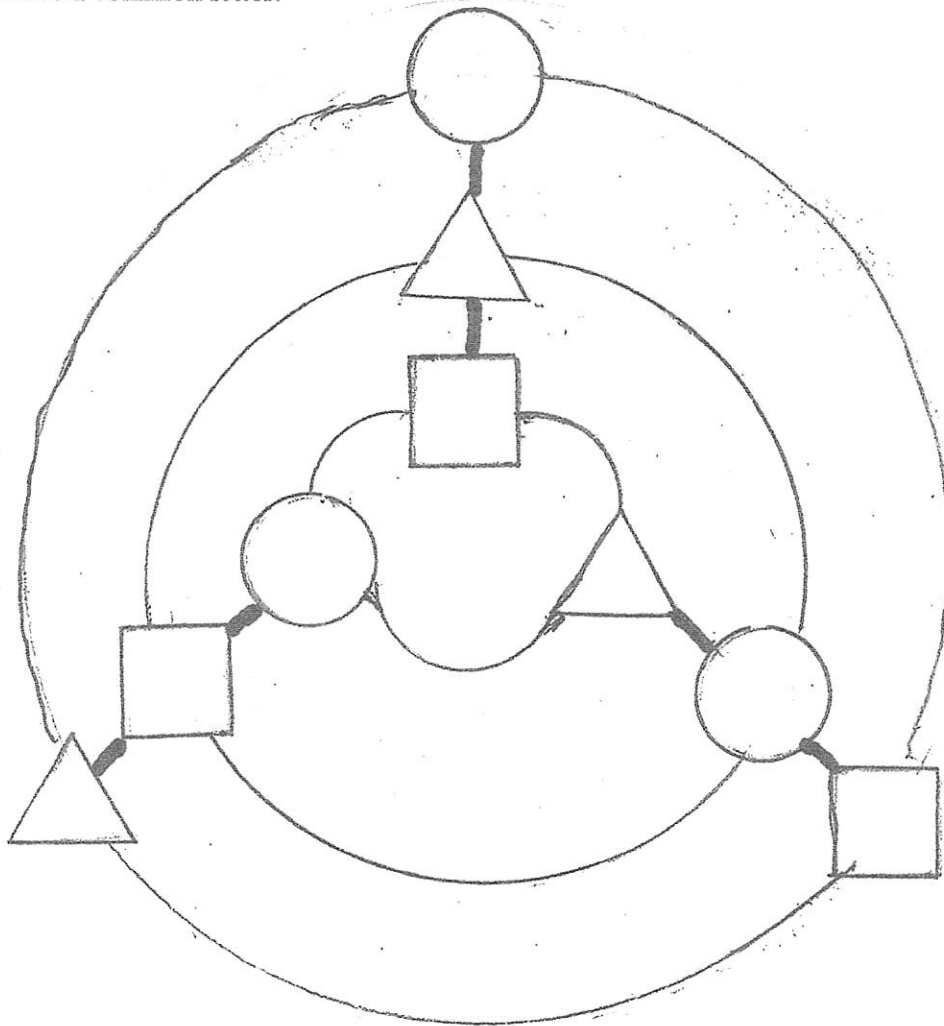
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WORD WAYS ENDS!

by Jeremiah Farrell

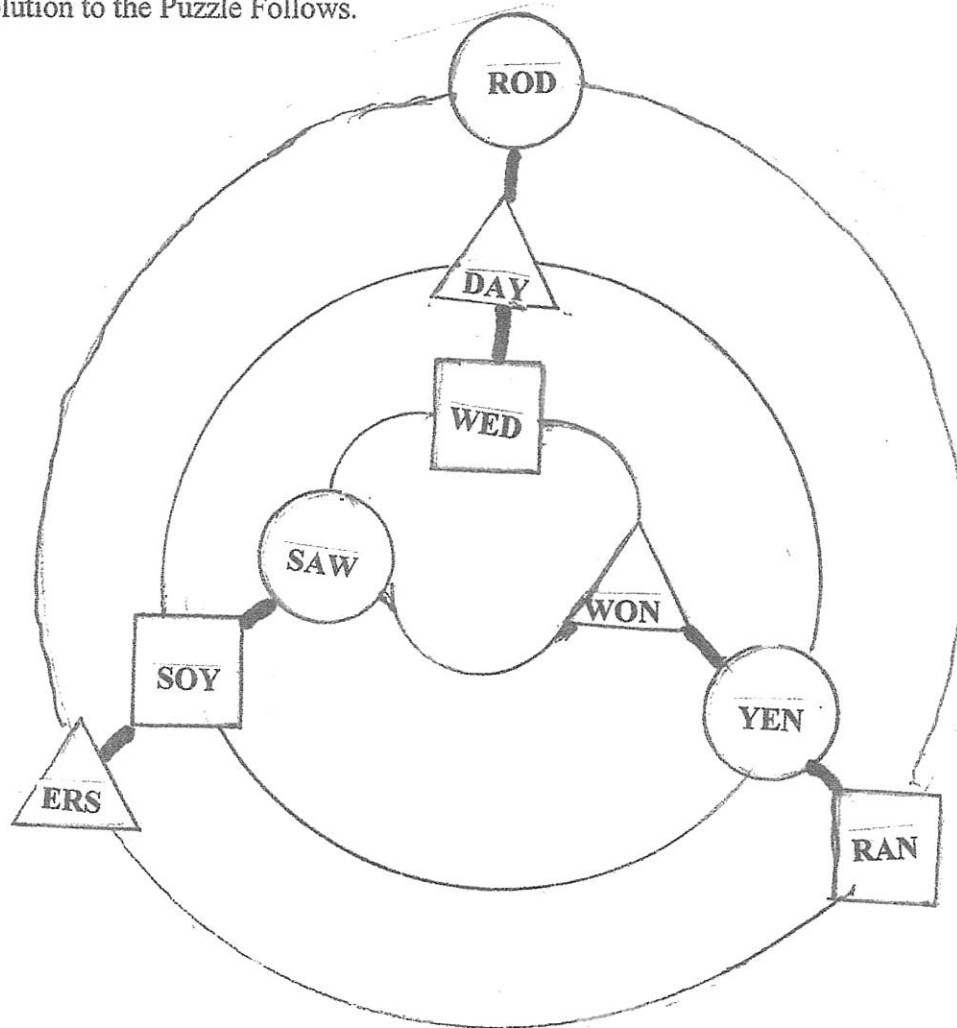
The November 2020 issue of *Word Ways* will be the last issue. *Word Ways* was started in 1968 at the suggestion of the late Martin Gardner. Due to the generosity of Butler University all 53 years of articles will be archived free of charge at <https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/wordways/>.

A Puzzle. Each of the nine different letters of our title is used three times each in the following nine words: DAY, ERS, RAN, ROD, SAW, SOY, WED, WON, YEN. As a puzzle place the nine on the nodes of this diagram so that the three straight lines and the three concentric circular regions have a common letter.



A Game. Two players alternately chose a word and try to win by getting three with a common letter. To be totally fair each player has only four choices and if First does not win in four moves the win is given to Second.

One Solution to the Puzzle Follows.



First can always win the game with careful play. Notice that each set of three nodes, circles, triangles or squares has no letters in common. (This will be the case no matter what the answer to the puzzle is.) First starts by choosing any word. If Second chooses a word from the same shaped node, First takes the third from that node. Second's next choice forces First to block and will always be a double threat which First will win.

If Second's initial choice is in another shaped node than First's, First wins by forcing Second to waste a play by forcing Second to play in Second's same shaped node. For Example:

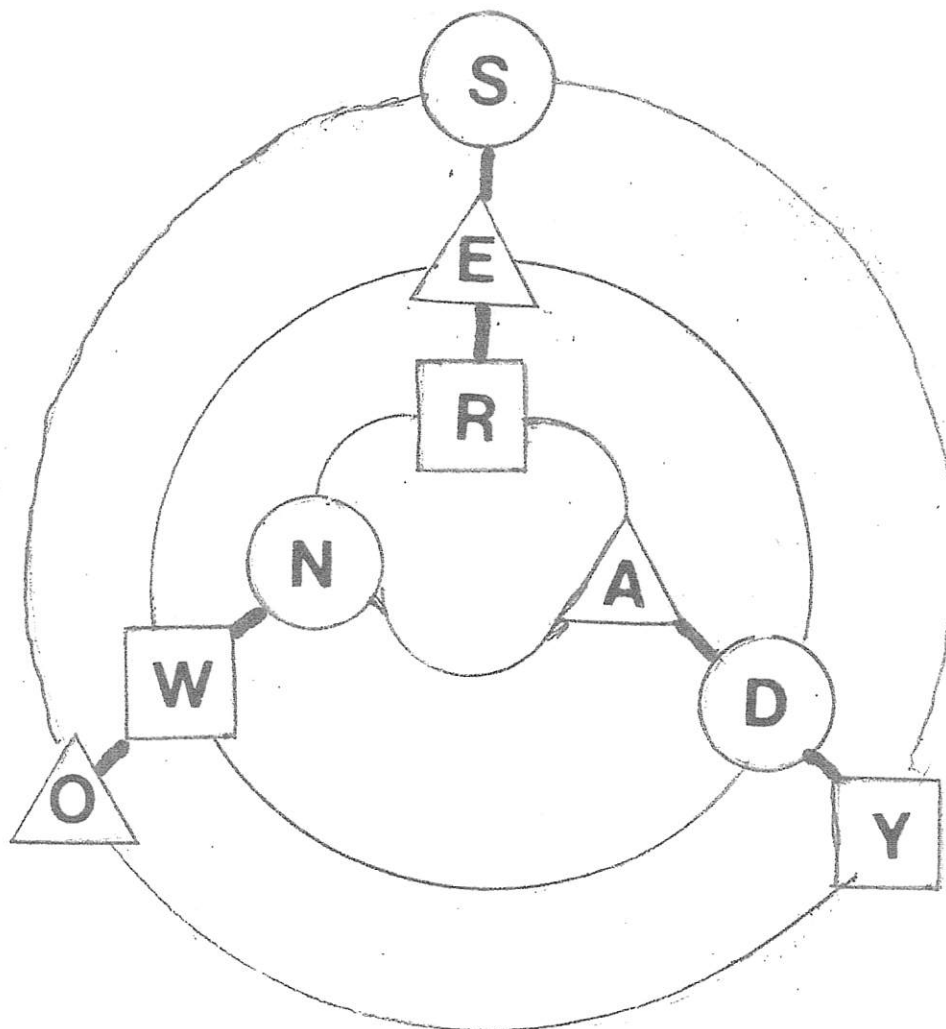
<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>
DAY	SOY
ROD	WED (forced)
RAN (double threat)	

Notice that First's RAN is the third entry in Second's square nodes.

Another Game. Two players alternately choose one of the nine letters A, D, E, N, O, R, S, W, Y. Trying to be the first to spell one of the nine words. Use the following diagram to show how First can win this game in four moves. Details are similar to the earlier game and are left to the reader.

These results are examples of (9,3) word configurations. Complete details can be found in the following:

“Configuration Games” by Jeremiah Farrell, Martin Gardner, and Thomas Rodgers. *Tribute to a Mathemagician*, ed. By Barry Cipra, Erik D. Demaine, Martin L. Demaine, and Tom Rodgers, 2005, AK Peters, Ltd.



COLLOQUY

This May Dr. Steve Bloom will retire from the College of Education of Butler University after 26 years. He has for about the last 10 years taught two Butler Honor's courses that are of special interest to readers of *Word Ways*. In spring semesters the course was on "Alice in Wonderland" and in the fall semesters it was about Martin Gardner. Jeremiah Farrell, Lacey Echols and Shannon Lieb were Butler professors who co-taught with Steve.

Word Ways has reprinted student projects from these courses and do so in this issue.

JEFF GRANT writes:

Usually I don't like to find fault with anything in WW, but feel I must comment on '0.1479 Percent Redundancy'. Who is Alex J. Quiz? It looks like a pseudonym designed to contain the letters JQXZ.

As you may be aware, lots of work has been done previously on this subject. The reference Alex makes near the end of the article should be to 'Initial Bigrams' (not 'Terminal Bigrams'), by Philip Cohen, with help from Darryl Francis and Dmitri Borgmann, which was published in *Word Ways* in May 1975 (not 1985).

On examining the first 10 letters of Alex's article (A-I), I note 29 place names supposedly listed in TIG (*Times Index-Gazetteer*) that do not appear in that reference. These names range from Bmaryam, Bqusta, Cfir, Cjadri...through to Jgor, Jkhi Khoshi Khure, Jrifat, and Jzhidka. They can however probably all be found in the GeoNames online database (geonames.usgs.gov).

Some other discrepancies:

Bbih/Bpih source lost? Not really acceptable

Bgug-Panir an Armenian cheese (not Indian)

dzo a yak/cow hybrid, found in the Himalayas, not northern Africa (MW3, not MW1)

iechyd da (must include the 'da') *Collins English Dictionary* (not in MW1, 2 or 3)

iuu not in MW3 (OED notes as a 13th century spelling of 'Jew'). There are better iu-examples

Jmoud variant of 'Zhud', a Lithuanian lowlander (MW2) No reference to 'iomud', a horse breed

The unpublished collection '*From Aasvogel to Zzyzx, a Dictionary of Initial Bigrams*' contains examples for all 676 combinations. Two-letter terms such as Zx, letter substitutions (bxg, fxr, hxw, Jxhn, etc), and dubious contrived terms such as Btsfplk, fprintf, and jquiz have been excluded, as have initialisms, foreign and apostrophised words, brand names and symbols. The entry for the 'missing' VQ bigram is as follows:

Vquever a former Orkney Islands land-holding, on which a penny halfpenny tax was levied annually.
'Ane penny half d. (penny) land callit Vquever.' [*Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*, penny-land, 1614 quot.]

DARRYL FRANCIS comments:

I greatly enjoyed the article on Reinhold Aman in the latest Word Ways. I have 12 of the 13 volumes of Maledicta, and have been inspired to get hold of the 13th one to complete the set. I sent a note to Tristan Miller saying how much I enjoyed his article, especially as it filled in a lot of what I didn't know about Aman.

MARK J. WOLF has just published *101 Enigmatic Puzzles: Fractal Mazes, Quantum Chess, Anagram Sudoku, and More* (available at <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/101-enigmatic-puzzles> and Amazon.com). This book is filled with carefully constructed puzzles to provide a challenge to the serious puzzlers and some for the casual puzzlers to explore. Most of the puzzles provide new twists on older puzzle forms, and some new puzzle forms are also introduced.

In the Foreword Scott Kim remarks: "Mark calls his works gourmet puzzles, and indeed these are puzzles to be savored for their imagination and craft. Come to these puzzles prepared with paper and pencil, and perhaps a bit of computational horsepower or friends to consult, for some of these puzzles may take hours or even days to crack. Fortunately, he provides ample warm-up puzzles and hints to get you started."

The range of puzzles includes logic puzzles, chess puzzles, chess variant puzzles, jumping bug puzzles, tanagram puzzles, fractal mazes, crossword puzzles, Sudoku, number puzzles, trivia puzzles, and word puzzles. Some of the puzzles even combine existing puzzle forms (e.g. the Anagram Sudoku puzzles, which combine Sudoku with anagramming).

A STEVE BLOOM PUZZLE

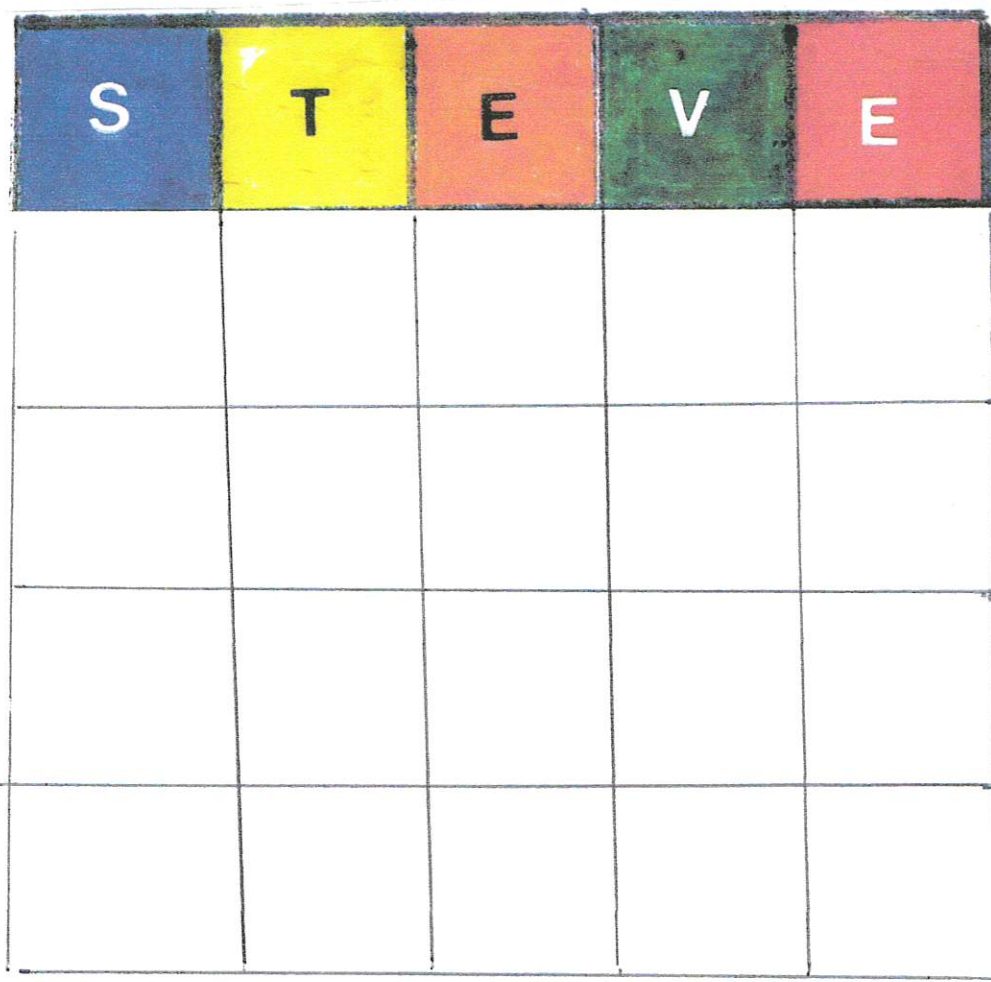
by Jeremiah Farrell

In the January 2020 issue of the *Mensa Bulletin* Dr. Abbie F. Salny proposed as a brain puzzler:

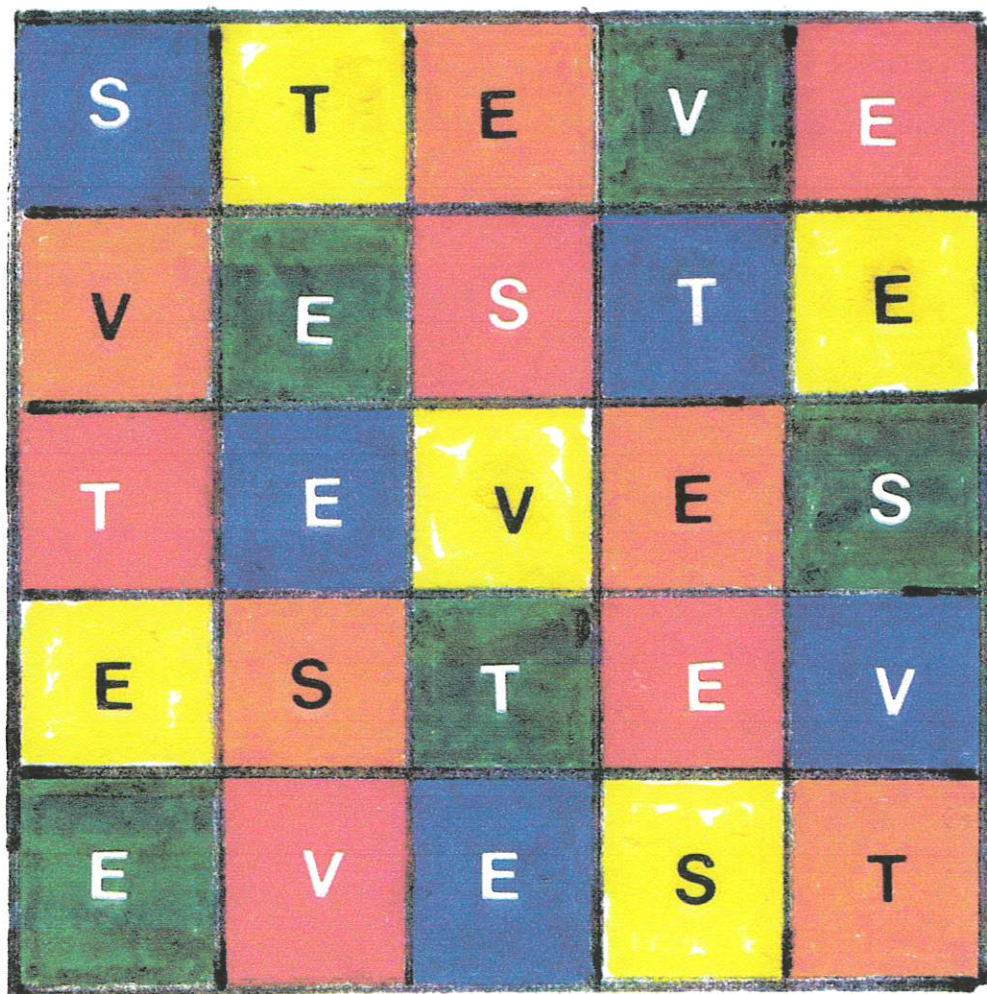
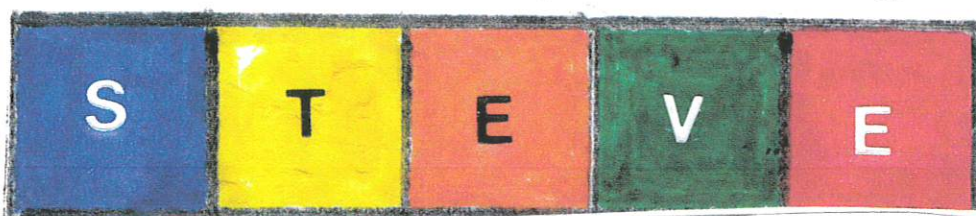
Place the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in a 5x5 grid so that no number is repeated in any row, column, or diagonal.

It turns out that long before that puzzle was proposed, we had asked for the word ALICE to appear in similar fashion and also with five distinct colors in the same grid. This was for our Alice in Wonderland honor's class at Butler University.

We renew this puzzle to honor Dr. Steve Bloom.



Blue Lemon Orange Olive Magenta



KENYA TRANSPOSALS

Jeff Grant
Hastings, New Zealand

In 'Country Transpositions' (WW, Aug 2019) and 'More Country Transpositions' (WW, Nov 2019), Darryl Francis and I attempted to find the best transposals for every country in the world. If we had looked for multiple transposals for each country it would have magnified the task considerably. To demonstrate, here is the result of a search for transposals of KENYA. We have omitted foreign words, initialisms and dubious personal names, some of which may be deliberate mixes of KENYA or KANYE (West).

Note that of the 90 transposals listed, none appears in a standard dictionary. Only two obsolete terms (**akyne** and **kayne**) are found in a dictionary, in this case one recording the early Scots tongue.

If anyone can find additions or improvements, please let us know.

AEKNY	Aekny Over and Aekny Loveny are on Facebk
AEKYN	a huntmaster in WOW. Fyth Aekyn of Malaysia is on Facebk
AENKY	a singer/guitarist [www.last.fm] (Net)] and Facebk
AENYK	Aenyk R Milano is on Facebk
AEYKN	
AEYNK	
AKENY	Anglo-Saxon surname first found in Norfolk, England [houseofnames.com] (Net)]
AKEYN	an archmage in WOW
AKNEY	old surname from Yorkshire, England [www.ancestry.com] (Net)]
AKNYE	first name of Aknye Ayehumhired of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [Facebk]
AKYEN	Ghanaian Emmanuel 'Nana' Akyen , soccer coach in Santa Barbara, US [Net]
AKYNE	variant of 'akin', Old Scots for 'oaken', made of oak wood. [DOST]
ANEKY	rare Indonesian surname [forebears]
ANEYK	Aneyk Ltd is a Bulgarian firm owned by Andrey Neykov [linkedin.com] (Net)]
ANKEY	given name and surname occurring many times on Facebk
ANKYE	settlement in Benue region, north-central Nigeria [Geo]
ANYEK	populated place in Oyam region, Uganda [Geo]
ANYKE	Anyke Brown is an American actress, writer and YouTube beauty guru [Net]
AYEKN	
AYENK	design firm based in Miami, Florida, US [www.zoominfo.com] (Net)]
AYKEN	surname found mainly in Turkey and Kazakhstan [forebears]
AYKNE	
AYNEK	stream in Buryatiya region, Russia [Geo]
AYNKE	Nigerian surname of several people on Facebk
EAKNY	
EAKYN	old variant of the surname 'Eakin', Mary Eakyn 1598 [DBS]
EANKY	
EANYK	

EAYKN	
EAYNK	
EKANY	surname found mainly in Uganda [forebears] Bosco Ekany is a film actor [Net]
EKAYN	Ekayn Liistot was a male Nautolan in 'Star Wars' [Wook]
EKNAY	settlement in Apurimac region, Peru [Geo]
EKNYA	
EKYAN	Andre Ekyan was a French jazz reedit [Wiki]
EKYNA	Ekyna Mulya is a resident of Bogor, Indonesia [Facebk]
ENAKY	given name and surname [Facebk] Enaky de Tagor is a French racehorse [Net]
ENAYK	rare surname recorded 2x in India [forebears] Enayk Nogueira, Brazil [Facebk]
ENKAY	Enkay Ogboruche is a female Nigerian gospel singer [Wiki]
ENKYA	surname recorded 10x in India [forebears]
ENYAK	mythical animal on the planet Ukio in 'Star Wars' [Wokk]
ENYKA	female given name recorded several times on Facebk and LinkedIn [Net]
EYAKN	
EYANK	
EYKAN	stream in Khabarovskiy Kray, Russia [Geo]
EYKNA	
EYNAK	two settlements in Afghanistan [Geo]
EYNKA	female given name, eg Eynka Lee and Eynka Biloo [Facebk]
KAENY	first name and surname recorded on Facebk
KAEYN	male given name, variant of 'Kane'? [babycenter.com] (Net)]
KANEY	populated place in Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia [Geo]
KANYE	Kanye West is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, etc [Wiki]
KAYEN	settlement in central Java, Indonesia [Geo]
KAYNE	variant of 'kane', Old Scots for a rent paid in kind [DOST]
KEANY	Keany Pass is in San Bernadino County, California, US [Geo]
KEAYN	Keayn de Vries-Turnell is an Australian actor [www.imdb.com] (Net)]
KENAY	populated place in Bomi region, Liberia [Geo]
KENYA	country in east Africa [Wiki]
KEYAN	name of two communities in China [Geo]
KEYNA	populated place in Hiiumaa region, Estonia [Geo]
KNAEY	Jacob and Lois Knaey , Fairfield, Virginia, 1940 US Census [ancestry.com] (Net)]
KNAYE	Knaye Holmes lives in Rochester, NY [whitepages.com] (Net)]
KNEAY	
KNEYA	town in Kurskaya Oblast, Russia [Geo]
KNYAE	
KNYEA	
KYAEN	'can't', Bay Islands English, Honduras [<i>Central American English</i> , J Holm, 1983]
KYANE	a freshwater nymph, or naiad, in Greek mythology [Wiki]
KYEAN	variant of the given name Kian [babygaga.com] (Net)]; many on Facebk.
KYENA	Kyena Cornelius, professor, Minnesota State University, Mankato, US [Facebk]
KYNAE	female given name, eg Kynae Stewart and Kynae Austin, US [LinkedIn (Net)]
KYNEA	in mathematics, a Kynea number is a type of positive integer [Wiki]

NAEKY	Naeky Rai is a resident of Gangtok, N India [Facebk]
NAEYK	surname recorded 2x in India [forebears] There are several on Facebk
NAKEY	village in Maradi region, south-central Niger [Geo]
NAKYE	Nakye Sanders plays basketball for the Towson Tigers in Maryland, US [Net]
NAYEK	populated place in Herat province, west Afghanistan [Geo]
NAYKE	over 200 people bear this surname, mostly in India [forebears]
NEAKY	2019 album by American rapper Dthangz [open.spotify.com] (Net)]
NEAYK	
NEKAY	given name recorded 46x in Indonesia and 14x in US [forebears]
NEKYA	advertising agency in Athens, Greece [business.facebook.com] (Net)]
NEYAK	variant of 'Niak', town in Mazandaran province, Iran [Geo]
NEYKA	surname and female given name [namespedia]
NKAEY	
NKAYE	populated place in Plateaux region, central Congo [Geo]
NKEAY	
NKEYA	surname recorded 137x, mostly in Cameroon and Nigeria [forebears]
NKYAE	
NKYEA	keyboard for typing African languages Twi, Fante, Ewe, Ga [nkyea.com] (Net)]
NYAEK	
NYAKE	mountain in Central Equatoria state, South Sudan [Geo]
NYEAK	Asso Nyeak , Alepua Nyeak and Liwagen Nyeak of Papua, Indonesia [Facebk]
NYEKA	community in Benue state, north-central Nigeria [Geo]
NYKAE	Nykae Mack, American football player from Savannah, Georgia [Net]
NYKEA	female given name recorded 49x in US [namespedia]
YAEKN	
YAENK	
YAKEN	populated place in Centre-Sud region, Burkina Faso [Geo]
YAKNE	surname recorded 4x in Indonesia [forebears]
YANEK	male given name recorded 110x in 8 countries, mainly Russia [namespedia]
YANKE	settlement in Papua province, east Indonesia [Geo]
YEAKN	Yeakn Protecting Products, based in Nanping, China [globaltextiles.com] (Net)]
YEANK	male given name of several people on Facebk
YEKAN	town in Kachin state, north Myanmar [Geo]
YEKNA	Yekna Investments is based in Accra, Ghana [contactout.com] (Net)]
YENAK	village in Maharashtra state, west India [Geo]
YENKA	settlement in Andhra Pradesh state, southeast India [Geo]
YKAEN	
YKANE	character in WOW; first name of several people on Facebk
YKEAN	Ykean Johnson, football player at Bel Air High School, Bel Air, Maryland [Net]
YKENA	Maison Ykena is a hair salon in Milan, Italy [Net]
YKNAE	
YKNEA	
YNAEK	
YNAKE	
YNEAK	a 2-song compilation by Chris Schellstede on Spotify [Net]

YNEKA **Yneka** Hathorn is author of 'The Journal of Truth and the Beginning' [Net]
YNKAE
YNKEA

References

DBS *Dictionary of British Surnames*, P H Reaney, 1958
DOST *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*
Facebk Facebook, online social networking site [Net]
forebears forebears.io [Net]
Geo geonames.usgs.gov [Net], US Board on Geographic Names
namespedia namespedia.com [Net]
Net Internet, using Google search program
Wiki Wikipedia [Net]
Wook Wookieepedia [Net]
WOW World of Warcraft, online role-playing game [Net]

This Side Up

By Don Hauptman

The former Nissan/Renault chief executive, convinced that he would not receive a fair trial, fled Tokyo last year, smuggled out in a large packing case. The name is pronounced “goan.”

Poor auto magnate Carlos Ghosn.
Japan said: “We won’t toss a bhosn”
And barred his calling from a phosn.
The secret plan, though, wasn’t blhosn
So to his homeland he was flhosn,
Not First Class and mostly prhosn.
He hoped the box would not be thrhosn!

SPOONERISM NAME GAME, REDUX

More Onomastic Reversals . . . and a Sidebar

DON HAUPTMAN
New York, New York
donhauptman@nyc.rr.com

Does Kal Penn have a *pal*, *Ken*? Would Paula Cole *call a Pole*? Is Piper Hardison *hyperpartisan*?

Such are the conundrums posed by spoonerizing proper names. According to my rules, such names may be of real people, or well-known characters in fictional works, or even invented, if plausible. These criteria distinguish the proper from the improper. Let's consider some other possibilities. But first, a relevant digression....

* * *

When I began researching my 1991 spoonerism book, *Cruel and Unusual Puns*, I knew I would need to consult the writings of Victoria Fromkin (1923-2000), a UCLA linguistics professor and a leading authority on speech errors, including spoonerisms. The big idea guiding her research was that slips of the tongue reveal secrets about how the brain organizes language, such phenomena not being readily observable by other means.

After reading Dr. Fromkin's books and articles, I contacted her and she agreed to a brief telephone interview. Among other questions, I asked if she and her colleagues ever took account of spoonerisms that are constructed intentionally as jokes. She said no. Emphatically. My impression was that she regarded these creations as trivial and irrelevant to her research.

I was surprised. After all, humor is always welcome. More importantly, I deemed this attitude a mistake. Here's why. If inadvertent spoonerisms and other speech errors supply a valuable "window into the mind," as she claimed, then could not deliberately invented specimens also serve as heuristic devices?

Fromkin's speech-error database contains such genuine and accidental (if not especially amusing) spoonerisms as "poppy of my caper" and "I broke the whistle on my crotch." Mistakes like these provide insights about the nature of language, grammar, learning, and cognition.

But when someone invents or hears or reads a deliberate spoonerism, isn't something similar going on? Why do we chuckle at "Pin Tweaks"? Or "Heed the foamless." Or "Please say when perved." Because the mind automatically reverses the phrases to the "right" versions.

Hence my conclusion that *deliberate spoonerisms are the other side of the coin*. With accidental examples, the mind travels from "correct" to "incorrect." With clever intentional ones, the navigation is in the other direction.

I sometimes wonder what the speech-error specialists might discover if they didn't harbor this apparent bias. It might be an instance of the more general prejudice against "treating humor seriously." Humor studies have long constituted an interdisciplinary academic field, embracing linguistics, psychology, art, literature, history, and other subjects. Today, fortunately, it's more respected than in the past.

* * *

Now to return to our theme. In a previous article (*Word Ways*, August 2015), I noted the kerfuffle involving the child whose celebrity parents inexplicably named her *Shiloh Pitt*. And the remarkable number of real people I found online named *Cass Miller*. Imaginative play with names often generates more felicitous and interesting results. For example:

- At least 39 people on Facebook are named Robert Lahr. If one chose to become a Vegas hotel lounge singer, the announcements would proclaim: *Bobby Lahr in the Lobby Bar*.
- Hypothetical movie credit: *Story line by Laurie Stein*.
- Potential self-help book: *Start Over with Art Stover*.
- Scott Pruitt, former E.P.A. honcho, is politically conservative. Thus, if he were asked for his position on the legalization of marijuana, he might testily exclaim: "*Pot? Screw it!*"
- Auction of memorabilia of Olympic ski champion: *Killy, the Bid*.
- News report on reclusive baseball player: *Bunter, hidin'*.
- If a Richard Brode had been an Army officer dishonorably discharged for cowardice, his biography could be titled *Follow the Yellow Rick Brode*.
- Similarly, if director Stanley Kubrick had served in the military, his guard post might have been identified as *Manned by Your Stan*.
- Query to pack animal just in from a downpour: "*O llama! Been sodden?*"

Directory of Apposite Occupations: Anthropologist *Gunter Hatherer*. Mafia capo *Bob Moss*. Rancher *Keefe Battleman*. Well-known performer *Amos Factor*. Pianist *Gaby Brand*. Picky beer connoisseur *Fuss Rheingold*. K-9 Corps hero *Tooth Barkington*.

In conclusion, one might say that we have just taken the game to a whole . . . *Lou Neville!*

CREDITS: Here are the results of the usual Google checks. Some of my "invented" names are in fact possessed by real people, though most have apparently not been officially spoonerized. I'm relatively confident about the originality of most of the above, while acknowledging the following antecedents, where contexts and setups often differ or are absent. Pal Ken: a 2019 *Family Guy* musical number. Call a Pole: submission by April Fleming on amirite.com, a pop-music humor site. Pot: various, sans my context. Killy: in Shel Silverstein's children's book *Runny Babbit*; see my review, *Word Ways*, August 2005. Bunter: Tweet by A. Goldman, 2019. Stan: Emily Lime, amirite.com again, and website of David Warren, a U.K. musician and humorist. Bob Moss the Mob Boss: Reddit, Twitter, elsewhere. Tooth: multiple sources, but an Australian magazine called *Stead's Review*, July 20, 1903, was probably first!

BIGRAM SENTENCES AND TRIGRAM SENTENCES

SUSAN THORPE

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BIGRAM SENTENCES

Every word of a sentence contains the same bigram.

The bigrams are made respectively of A, E, I, O and U plus another letter.

The latter are, in order, N T R L and S

AN EN IN ON UN

ORANG UTANGS CAN MANAGE FANTASTIC ANTICS, HANGING, STANDING AND
BALANCINC ANYWHERE

BEN MENDED DENNIS'S BROKEN WOODEN FENCE ENCLOSING CONTENTED CHICKENS

IN LINCOLNS INN KEVIN, GRINNING INSANELY, INDULGED IN DRINKING NINE PINTS
WITHIN MINUTES

ON MONDAY, SIMON'S SECOND SON LEON ONLY AUCTIONED ONE AMMONITE

JUNE'S HUNGRY AUNT FOUND CRUNCHY BUNS UNDERNEATH CHUNKY PRUNES

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

NA NE NI NO NU

NATTY CANADIAN TEENAGER NAMED JONATHAN NASH IMPERSONATED NAPOLEAN
BONAPARTE

WEDNESDAY'S NEW WINNER, JANET, NEVER LOANED SPINELESS KENNETH MONEY

RONNIE KNIGHT, DEFINITIVE CORNISH NIGHTINGALE ORNITHOLOGIST , VANISHED!

SNOOZING, NORMAN'S ANNOYINGLY NOISY MONOTONOUS SNORING, DENOTED
ADENOIDAL ABNORMALITY

NURSE KEANU NUGENT RENUMBERED EMANUEL'S NUMEROUS MANUSCRIPTS

AT ET IT OT UT

PAT'S FATHER, JONATHAN, SAT IMPATIENTLY AT GATESHEAD STATION
SHETLAND'S BARONET GARETH FLETCHER UPSET HARRIET'S PET CHEETAH
KEITH'S AMBITIOUS ITALIAN EXPEDITION EXCITED SOLICITOR MITCH SMITH
DERMOT'S MOTHER PROMOTED SCOTCH BROTH SMOTHERING HOT POTATOES
UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN BUTTERFLIES FLUTTERED OUTSIDE SOUTHPORT'S
COMPUTER INSTITUTE

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

TA TE TI TO TU

GRETA'S UNFORGETTABLE GUITAR RECITAL CERTAINLY ENTERTAINED STAN
INTERNATIONAL TENNIS CONTESTANT, TEDDY, INTERRUPTED SISTER KATE'S
AFTERNOON TEA
ARTICULATING EMOTIONALLY, CHRISTINE CRITICISED JUSTIN'S GENETICS ARTICLE
TO ANTON'S ASTONISHMENT, TOBY TOOK TOMMY'S MOTOR TO BRIGHTON
STUART, ADVENTUROUS STUDENT TURNED TUTOR, EVENTUALLY STUDIED
TUTANKHAMOUN

AR ER IR OR UR

MARTIN'S LARGE WARM APARTMENT NEAR CANARY WHARF CHARMED CAROLINE
SEVERAL UNDERWEAR LAYERS LATER, EVEREST CLIMBER RUPERT OVERCAME
VERY SEVERE WINTER WEATHER
BIRMINGHAM CIRCUS'S PIROUETIST MOIRA ADMIRER KIRK SINCLAIR'S THIRTIETH
BIRTHDAY ATTIRE
SENIOR DOCTOR GREGORY RECORDS JUNIOR DOCTOR NORMA'S ORTHOPAEDIC
WORK THOROUGHLY
MURIEL REASSURINGLY NURSED KURT'S HURTFUL BURN INJURY DURING SATURDAY

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

RA RE RI RO RU

LITERATURE GRADUATE LAURA'S CARAVAN TRAILER CRASHED, TRAGICALLY

BREND A GREEN'S THREE CHILDREN WORE RED BERETS

PARISIAN CLARINETIST HARRIET MARRIED NOTORIOUS BRIGHTON ARISTOCRAT
ADRIAN

CAROLINE FROBISHER'S EXTROVERT BROTHER, PROFESSOR RONALD CROWTHER,
BORROWED RONNIE CAMERON'S ROTIVATOR

DRUNK, RUPERT, GRUMBLING TRUCULENTLY, CRUNCHED GERTRUDE'S
SCRUMPTIOUS STRUDEL

AL EL IL OL UL

GOALS ALERTD ARSENAL FOOTBALLERS, ESPECIALLY TALL, INFALLIBLE WALTER

ELEVEN DELIGHTED SHEFFIELD RELATIVES HELPED ELISABETH CELEBRATE
MICHAELMAS

WHILE HILDA'S CHILD SMILED BEGUILINGLY, JILL'S SPOILT CHILDREN PILFERED
PENCILS

WOOLWICH POLICE COLLECTED STOLEN ROLEXES, GAOLING HAROLD OLIVIER

PAULINE'S TRULY SPECTACULAR ULTRAMARINE DULUX EMULSION EMULATED
JULIA'S CHEERFUL SCULLERY

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

LA LE LI LO LU

GLAMOROUS LADY STELLA'S VANILLA FLAVOURED BLANCMANGE COLLAPSED!

HANDLER GLEN FLETCHER LED, FILEWISE, ELEVEN JUNGLE ELEPHANTS

ELISABETH ALLISON, LIMERICK SPECIALIST, RELISHED STYLISH LINER HOLIDAYS

GLORIA FOLLOWED FELLOW LONDON LODGER, BELLOWING 'CARLOS'

LUNATIC LUKE'S HALLUCINATIONS INCLUDED LURID ILLUSTRATIONS PLUS
LUMINOUS COLUMBINES!

AS ES IS OS US

DONCASTER BASED, JASON'S CHRISTMAS ROAST PHEASANT FEAST TASTED SMASHING

COLCHESTER RESIDENT, JESSICA, ARRANGES ESPECIALLY IMPRESSIVE HARVEST FESTIVALS

BARRISTER FRANCIS CHISHOLM'S IRISH SISTER, MISS PRISCILLA, VISITED PARIS

JOSEPHINE'S BOSS, OSCAR, PURPOSEFULLY CHOSE MOST HOSTILE CROSSWORDS

USUALLY, HUSBAND RUSSELL EXCUSED SUSANNA'S IMPETUOUS MALICIOUS JEALOUSY

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

SA SE SI SO SU

SATISFIED, SALLY SAT SAMPLING SANDRA'S SAVOURY SALMON SANDWICHES

SUNSET SEES MUSEUM SECRETARY, LOUISE, SETTLE SETH'S SEVEN TORTOISES

SIMON'S COUSIN, MISSISSIPPI RESIDENT ELSIE, COMMISSIONED TELEVISION MUSICALS

SOMETIMES SOLOMON, ALISON'S SON, SOLD GRUSOME SOGGY SEASONED RISsoles

SSANNA, SURNAME SULLIVAN, CASUALTY'S CONSULTANT SURGEON, SUSTAINED SUITABLY REASSURING RESULTS

TRIGRAM SENTENCES

Every word of a sentence contains the same trigram.

TRIGRAMS

FRAIL, AILING GAIL CURTAILED SAILING

MOUNTAINEEER ELAINE MAINLY PAINTS RAINY TERRAINS

ALICE VALIDATES QUALITY LALIQUE

CALAIS'S LAIRD ALAIN BLAIR EXCLAIMED 'ELAINE'S PLAIN'!

LOUISE'S CRUISE SURPRISED MISERLY DENISE

HOLIEST PRIEST TRIES JULIE'S CRUMBLIEST PASTRIES

TERRY LISTER ENTERED MISTER HUNTER'S WINTER SHELTER

VERNON INVERDALE ADVERTISED VERA OLIVER'S VERMILLION ROVER (car)

BRENT'S COMMENTS ENTERTAIN ORIENTAL GENTLEMAN

GRANTHAM'S GRANT WANTED SCANTY PANTS!

ROLAND RAND SLANDERS ANDREA'S HANDY TANDEM

Words, words, words

Roger E. Rondeau
Dayton, Ohio

Boy, oh boy, oh boy; isn't it weird that so many things come in threes? That a lot of letters like to stick together in threesomes, from abc to xyz, from OMG to WTF? Is it because we live on the third planet from the sun, sustained by the sun, moon and earth with animals, vegetables and minerals on land, sea and air, in the states of solid, liquid and gas, in three dimensions, and in the time space of past, present, and future? Could it be that for every Tom Dick and Harry, for every small medium and large father, mother, and child who's bare necessities are food, shelter and clothing, there's a morning, noon and night for our three meals of breakfast, lunch and dinner eaten with a knife, spoon, and fork?

The Holy Book is loaded with references to biblical accounts of faith, hope, and charity starting with the holy trinity of the Father Son and Holy Ghost; of the three wise men bearing three gifts to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; of the three denials of Peter; the three victims of the crucifixion, and the resurrection of Jesus three days after his death - at the age of 33.

Our literature is loaded with famous trinities from fairytale trios like the three bears, three little pigs, three blind mice to the three musketeers and the three stooges. The number three also pops up in Greek mythology with Zeus ruling the sky with his three-forked lightning bolt, Poseidon the sea with his trident and the three-headed dog guarding the gates of Hades.

Then we have the three primary colors of red, blue and yellow and our red, white, and blue country with its three branches of government. There's Newton's three laws of motion and the three strikes law. Even many of our jokes are based on a triad of characters like those about a priest, a minister and a rabbi going into a bar or the ones about a physicist, an engineer and a mathematician; and the many stories involving a genie's three wishes.

So if you didn't swallow this article hook, line and sinker; and you're not ready willing and able to see the good, the bad and the ugly of the word trifectas, then I've failed from the beginning, middle and end to clearly present the breadth, length and width of these word triplets. If so, then the blame is strictly on me, myself, and I.

Roger E. Rondeau

ZERO REDUNDANCY!

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In the February 2020 Word Ways (volume 53, number 1) the article **0.1479% Redundancy** presented a list of words and names beginning with 675 of the 676 possible two-letter combinations, or digraphs. The missing digraph was VQ. The author appealed for readers to find a word or name beginning with those two elusive letters. I managed to find a name beginning with those letters. Because it is so obscure, I will provide a fair amount of detail below.

First off, as the author noted, there are no main entries in *the Oxford English Dictionary* beginning with VQ. However, a search of the entire text of the OED reveals two Old Danish words (**vqvæm**, **vquem**) beginning VQ – these appear in the entry for **UNQUEME**, an obsolete word meaning ‘displeasing, disagreeable, unacceptable’. But Old Danish words hardly satisfy the need for a proper VQ word.

Another dictionary useful for finding strange words is the *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (DSL), findable online at dsl.ac.uk. DSL brings together the two major historical dictionaries of the Scots language: *The Scottish National Dictionary* (containing words from modern Scots, defined as 1700 onwards) and *A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (containing words from Older Scots, defined as 12th century to 1700).

As well as allowing for searches of main entries, the DSL allows for searches of the entire text, including the use of wildcard characters. In this instance, I simply searched the entire text for the string VQ*. My search came up with the following entry at the head word **PENNY-LAND** (I have removed quotes which are of no relevance to the VQ search):

Penny-land, *n.* Also: **pen(n)ie-**, **pen(n)ey-**, **pen(n)e-**, **peny-** and **-lande**. [Cf. ME. *penilond* ? land paying a penny rent per annum (*a* 1300); the corresp. med. L. term is *denariata*.]

1. A division of land, of variable size, which formerly paid a tax of one silver penny to an overlord, ? orig. the Norwegian King. Cf. also *halfpenny-land* Halfpenny *n.* b and *farding land* Farding *n.*

2. Following a cardinal number other than 1, chiefly without inflexion: cf. Penny *n.* 7. **a.** In Orkney and Caithness and earlier in Shetland, equal to of an Urisland, appar. reckoning 18 English pennies to the Norwegian ounce. See esp. Capt. F. W. L. Thomas ‘What is a Pennyland’ in *Soc. Ant.* XVIII. 253 f., esp. 258–60, and Hugh Marwick *Orkney Farm-Names* (Kirkwall. 1952) 191 f., esp. 210. Also abbreviated as *d. land* or *d. terre*, and in the macaronic form *pennie terre*.

[various quotes removed]

1614 Ib. 148.

Ane penny half d. land callit **Vquever**;

[various quotes removed]

Notice that word **VQUEVER** taken from a quote dated 1614. By clicking on the “lb. 148” characters, the DSL bibliography indicates that the quote comes from this source:

Rentals of the Ancient Earldom and Bishoprick of Orkney, edited by Alexander Peterkin, published in Edinburgh, 1820

So, what is **VQUEVER**? I suspected it was the name of a piece of land, perhaps a rented farm, in the Orkney islands, Scotland.

Following on from the DSL search, I did a Google search for **VQUEVER**. The entire contents of the 1820 work quoted above, *Rentals of the Ancient Earldom and Bishoprick of Orkney*, can be found in books.google.co.uk. **VQUEVER** appears in three places in this old tome, on pages 26, 30 and 148. It seems to be the name of a farm, and is listed along with the names of many other farms and pieces of land on which rents were charged. Examples of other strange farm names from the same book are GIRSQUOY, KIRBUSTER, QUHYTTCLETT, QUOYIS, SHALTAQUOY, SKEANNESTOFT and VCHILSETTER.

All 676 initial digraphs have now been conquered, justifying the title of this short article ZERO REDUNDANCY!, a title first used for an item in Dmitri Borgmann’s 1967 book *Beyond Language*. Borgmann’s target for his item was zero redundancy, but he didn’t actually achieve it. I’m sure he’d be pleased that the target has finally been reached.

Self-Descriptive Number Names

Alex J. Quiz
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If you assign numbers to different letters, you can configure the numbers in a way so that the letters that make up a number add up to that number. I found a solution up to 17 (that also includes 19).

The configuration that works is:

E = 0, F = 2.5, G = 3, H = -0.5, I = 0, L = 4, N = 4.5, O = -3.5, R = -2, S = 0, T = 5.5, U = 7, V = 2.5, W = 0, X = 6, and Z = 5.5.

The only adjustments that can be made are G, H, U, and R. Since the only numbers that G, H, U, and R appear in are eight (G and H), three (H and R), and four (R and U), they can be adjusted.

You can add any number to G, but must subtract that number from H and U and add it to R.

$$\text{Zero} = 5.5 + 0 - 2 - 3.5 = 0$$

$$\text{One} = -3.5 + 4.5 + 0 = 1$$

$$\text{Two} = 5.5 - 3.5 + 0 = 2$$

$$\text{Three} = 5.5 - 0.5 - 2 + 0 + 0 = 3$$

$$\text{Four} = 2.5 - 3.5 + 7 - 2 = 4$$

$$\text{Five} = 2.5 + 0 + 2.5 + 0 = 5$$

$$\text{Six} = 0 + 0 + 6 = 6$$

$$\text{Seven} = 0 + 0 + 2.5 + 0 + 4.5 = 7$$

$$\text{Eight} = 0 + 0 + 3 - 0.5 + 5.5 = 8$$

$$\text{Nine} = 4.5 + 0 + 4.5 + 0 = 9$$

$$\text{Ten} = 5.5 + 0 + 4.5 = 10$$

$$\text{Eleven} = 0 + 4 + 0 + 2.5 + 0 + 4.5 = 11$$

$$\text{Twelve} = 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4 + 2.5 + 0 = 12$$

$$\text{Thirteen} = 5.5 - 0.5 + 0 - 2 + 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4.5 = 13$$

$$\text{Fourteen} = 2.5 - 3.5 + 7 - 2 + 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4.5 = 14$$

$$\text{Fifteen} = 2.5 + 0 + 2.5 + 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4.5 = 15$$

$$\text{Sixteen} = 0 + 0 + 6 + 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4.5 = 16$$

$$\text{Seventeen} = 0 + 0 + 2.5 + 0 + 4.5 + 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4.5 = 17$$

$$\text{Nineteen} = 4.5 + 0 + 4.5 + 0 + 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4.5 = 19$$

but

$$\text{Eighteen} = 0 + 0 + 3 - 0.5 + 5.5 + 0 + 0 + 4.5 = 12.5$$

This is how it's worked out:

Since we know that "teen" has to equal "ten", E has to be equal to 0.

Since "thirteen" = "thir" + "ten" = "three" + "ten", I has to be equal to 2 times E, or 0 also.

Since "nine" has to equal 9, N must be equal to 4.5.

From that we can conclude from "ten", T must equal 5.5.

Then, from "one" we get that O must equal -3.5.

From "fifteen" and "five" we get that F has to equal V and so they both must equal 2.5.

From "eleven" we can get that L is equal to 4.

From "twelve" we can get that W is equal to 0.

Surprisingly, that works with "two" also!

This is why W works with "twelve" and "two":

Eleven is the letters EELV plus E and N, and twelve is the letters EELV plus T and W.

One is the letter O plus E and N, and two is the letters O plus T and W.

Since eleven minus EELV is one minus O and twelve minus EELV is two minus O, the value of W works with both "twelve" and "two"!

From "seven" we can see that S is equal to 0 and then from "six" we can see that X is equal to 6.

Now the only letters that appear in the first 20 numbers (including zero) we're missing are G, H, U, R, and Z. I just decided to set G to be 3 because of the thing that G can be anything, but whatever you add to G you must add to R also and subtract from H and U. That forces H to be -0.5, R to be -2, and U to be 7.

To make "zero", I assigned 5.5 to Z.

You can never make "eighteen" self-descriptive because doing that would make "eight" + "ten" be "eighteen" and therefore T would have to equal E, making T and E both zero. But then N has to equal 10 for "ten" to be self-descriptive, and then "nine" would equal 20, unless you made I -11, which wouldn't work for any of the other numbers.

We could also go further.

We could assign 4.5 to Y to make "twenty" self-descriptive and then therefore make "twenty-one" through "twenty-nine" self-descriptive, but "thirty" would end up equaling 13, since Y is equal to N and therefore equal to EEN and so "thirty" and "thirteen" would be equal.

To make "hundred" self-descriptive, we could make D 45.5, but then "one hundred" would equal 101. So, to make "one hundred" self-descriptive instead, we could make D 45, and therefore make "one hundred" through "one hundred seventeen", and "one hundred nineteen" through "one hundred twenty-nine" self-descriptive.

To make the "one hundred" numbers self descriptive with the "and", like "one hundred and one", we would have to make "and" equal zero, and so A would have to equal -49.5, but that couldn't be, because "thousand".

If we wanted to make "one thousand" self descriptive, we would need A to be 941, and therefore "one thousand" through "one thousand twenty-nine", minus "one thousand eighteen" and "one thousand one hundred" through "one thousand one hundred twenty-nine", minus "one thousand one hundred eighteen" would be self-descriptive.

For "one million" and "one billion" to be self-descriptive, M needs to be 999990 and B needs to be 999999990. We could go on and on like this forever, but if we make all of these changes, the full configuration is:

A = 941, B = 999999990, D = 45, E = 0, F = 2.5, G = 3, H = -0.5, I = 0, L = 4, M = 999990, N = 4.5, O = -3.5, R = -2, S = 0, T = 5.5, U = 7, V = 2.5, W = 0, X = 6, Y = 4.5, and Z = 5.5.

The missing letters are C, J, K, P, and Q,
and the self-descriptive numbers are:

The self-descriptive numbers with this number scheme are:

0-17, 19-29, 100-117, 119-129, 1000-1017, 1019-1029, 1100-1117, 1119-1129, 1000000-1000017, 1000019-1000029, 1000100-1000117, 1000119-1000129, 1001000-1001017, 1001019-1001029, 1001100-1001117, 1001119-1001129, 1000000000-1000000017, 1000000019-1000000029, 1000000100-1000000117, 1000000119-1000000129, 1000001000-1000001017, 1000001019-1000001029, 1000001100-1000001117, 1000001119-1000001129, 1001000000-1001000017, 1001000019-1001000029, 1001000100-1001000117, 1001000119-1001000129, 1001001000-1001001017, 1001001019-1001001029, 1001001100-1001001117, and 1001001119-1001001129.

THE SCUNTHORPE PROBLEM

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Scunthorpe is an industrial town in North Lincolnshire, England, with a population of about 80,000. So, what's the Scunthorpe problem?

According to Wikipedia: "The Scunthorpe problem is the blocking of websites, e-mails, forum posts or search results by a spam filter or search engine because their text contains a string of letters that appear to have an obscene or unacceptable meaning. Names, abbreviations, and technical terms are most often cited as being affected by the issue. The problem arises since computers can easily identify strings of text within a document, but interpreting words of this kind requires considerable ability to interpret a wide range of contexts, possibly across many cultures, which is an extremely difficult task for computers at present. As a result, broad blocking rules may result in false positives affecting innocent phrases."

The four letters at the heart of the **Scunthorpe** problem were the basis for the research in this article. There are many dictionaries of slang which list numerous words beginning with those four letters. An extensive source is the excellent three-volume *Green's Dictionary of Slang*, published in 2010; also available at www.greensdictofslang.com. However, the thrust of this article is to document some of the types of words that just coincidentally contain the **Scunthorpe** tetragram appearing together and in order.

Let's take a look at what can be found in traditional paper dictionaries.

Webster's Second Edition contains two such words:

- **placuntitis**: the same as placentitis, inflammation of the placenta;
- **placuntoma**: the same as placentoma, a tumor developed from the placenta or placental remnants.

Foster's Medical Dictionary (properly titled *An Illustrated Encyclopaedic Medical Dictionary*, by Frank Foster, 1888) contains just one word that displays the four letters:

- **placuntechos**: another name for 'uterine souffle', defined as 'a blowing sound like that heard over an aneurysm, recognised as synchronous with the mother's pulse'.

Although Foster's is over 130 years old, **placuntechos** can be found on a current website. *The Big Dictionary*, subtitled *The Ultimate English Dictionary on the Web*, is at thebigdictionary.com – and provides exactly the same definition, 'uterine souffle'.

I should note that none of the three preceding medical terms, with exactly those spellings, appear in the latest editions of medical dictionaries such as *Dorland's Medical Dictionary* and *Stedman's Medical Dictionary*. Although **placuntitis** and **placuntoma** do appear in earlier editions.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* has several occurrences of the tetragram, occurring in words in their own right:

- **Cuntz**: the surname Cuntz appears in an 1891 quote from New York's World newspaper, at the main entry 'stick-handling' (a term from ice hockey and lacrosse); thus "H. F. Cuntz and Maxfield played a good game, their stick-handling being capital."
- **sowcunt**: this is an undefined word appearing in a list of compound entries at the noun 'sow'; the OED notes it as a "coarse, nonce word" taken from James Joyce's *Ulysses*;
- **vecunty**: this is a word appearing in a 1545 quote at 'transume', thus: "The autentik copy of the said letter of merk autentikly transumyt in the toun of Arkis under the sele of the tabellioun and keparis of the sele of the vecunty of Arkis." Or, rendered into modern English, "The authentic copy of the said letter of mark authentically copied in the town of Arkis under the seal of the notary and keepers of the seal of the vecunty of Arkis." This same quote also appears in *A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*, available online at dsl.ac.uk. I believe that **vecunty** is a 15-16th century obsolete spelling of 'viscounty' (itself an obsolete spelling of 'viscount') or 'viscountcy' (the rank of a viscount).

The OED also contains obsolete and/or variant spellings of more modern words, typically occurring in the 16th to 19th centuries:

- **cuntur**: a 16th-18th spelling of 'condor', a large South American vulture;
- **quincuntial**: a 16th century spelling of 'quincuncial', pertaining to a quincunx, a pattern used for planting trees in which they are arranged in one or more groups of five, so placed that four occupy the corners of a square or rectangle and the fifth occupies its centre;
- **reacuntar, recunter, recuntir, recuntyr**: Scots pre-17th century spellings of the verb 'recounter', to encounter in battle;
- **scunt**: a 19th century spelling of the past participle of the verb 'skin', skinned or stripped;
- **scuntion**: an 18th century spelling of 'scuncheon', the bevelled inner edge of the side or jamb of a window or door.

The OED also contains many other words from Middle English and earlier centuries, all invariably obsolete spellings of familiar modern words. Here are just a few:

- **accunt, acunt, acunte, acunthe**: obsolete form of 'account';
- **cuntasse**: obsolete form of 'countess';
- **cuntenance**: obsolete form of 'countenance';
- **cuntery**: obsolete form of 'country';
- **cuntirpoint**: obsolete form of 'counterpoint';
- **cuntreward**: obsolete form of 'country-ward';
- **incuntrey**: a Scottish word for inland country, the mainland as opposed to outlying isles;

- **Gropecuntelane**: a street name in Oxford, England (now called Grove Passage and Magpie Lane);
- **porcuntine**: obsolete form of 'porcupine';
- **Westcuntre**: obsolete form of 'west country'.

The OED contains many Latin words, usually in quotations appearing under a range of different headwords. Again, here are just a few:

- **accrescunt agnoscuntur crebrescunt crescunt dicunt dracuntium ducunt dicuntur educunt erubescunt fatiscunt grossecunt iacuntius infervescunt languescunt locuntur noscuntur obdormiscunt obliuiscuntur pascuntur pascuntur producantur quiescunt recognoscunt rigescunt secuntur tremiscunt uincuntur vascuntur veterascunt**

A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue (available to search online at dsl.ac.uk) has the following entries:

- **cuntack, cunt-fish, cunt-plucker** and **cuntie**: a father-lasher, a short-spined sea-scorpion, *Acanthocottus bubalis*;
- **cunterfut**: some kind of plate or dish;
- **incuntré** and **incuntrie**: the Scottish Lowlands as opposed to the Highlands and Isles;
- **ramcunter, rancunter, and rencunter**: variants of the verb 'rencounter', to engage (an enemy, etc) in fight or battle (all obviously related to four similar words from the OED, above);
- **secunt**: a variant spelling of 'second';
- **wiscunt**: an alternative spelling of 'vicecount' and 'vicont', themselves more familiar as the word 'viscount'. There is obviously a connection between **wiscunt** and **vecunty**, the latter mentioned above.

Here are a few words and names which can be found in online sources:

- **Acunto Napoli Ovens**: an Italian artisanal pizza oven manufacturer based in Naples, Italy, founded in 1892 by Vincenzo Acunto (Wikipedia);
- **d'Acunto**: Francesco d'Acunto is an assistant professor at the Boston College Carroll School of Management (Wikipedia);
- **Escunta**: the fifth album by Canadian grindcore band Fuck the Facts, recorded in January 2001 (Wikipedia);
- **Kuccuntikka**: one of several bands of Shoshone people living on the eastern edges of the Great Basin along the upper Green River Valley, Big Sandy River and Wind River eastward to the Wind River Basin (Shoshone Basin) of western Wyoming and south-westward to Bear Lake and Great Salt Lake in southeast Idaho and northern Utah, they possessed from all Shoshone bands the greatest horse herds, also called Plains Shoshone, later called Washakie Shoshone or Wind River Shoshone) (Wikipedia);
- **lucunter**: this occurs in the scientific name *Echinometra lucunter*, the rock boring urchin, a species of sea urchin in the family *Echinometridae* which is found in very shallow parts of the western Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea (Wikipedia);

- **oolacunta**: an extinct marsupial, the desert rat kangaroo (*Caloprymnus campestris*), that lived in a sand-ridge and gibber-plain habitat in south-western Queensland and north-eastern Australia (Wikipedia). I had expected to find this word in the *Australian National Dictionary*, but there's no sign of it there.
- **Placunt**: the following quote is from the India Times sometime in May 2013 – “The shallow depths of the Zuari river at Chicalim Bay is home to the *Placunt placenta*, locally known as mendios and a variety of shellfish”.

So far, I haven't touched on placenames. Here are just ten, although there are many more such Chinese placenames:

- **Blancuntre**: a village in Chubut Province in southern Argentina (Wikipedia);
- **Bulollicunta** : a place in Somalia (US Board on Geographic Names - USBGN);
- **Cunter**: a place in Switzerland (USBGN);
- **Cuntima**: a place in Guinea-Bissau (USBGN);
- **Cuntis**: a place in Spain (*Times Index Gazetteer*);
- **Cuntuva**: a place in Angola (USBGN);
- **Dacuntou**: a place in China (USBGN);
- **Sibicunto**: a place in Guinea-Bissau (USBGN);
- **Sucuntang**: a place in China (USBGN);
- **Xicuntou**: a place in China (USBGN)

Although the surname **Cuntz** was mentioned above, it's interesting to note that there is a branch of algebra called **Cuntz algebra**, named after Joachim **Cuntz**, a German mathematician born in 1948. The explanation of the algebra, which is too complex to describe here, is on Wikipedia.

Any more?

LOSING OR GAINING A LETTER MAKES A PHRASE

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LOSING A ABUSES BUSES ALED LED AVENUE VENUE BEAT BET
DEAN'S DENS GINA'S GINS HEARD HERD HOARSE HORSE
LAID LID LEAN LEN MEAN MEN SEAT SET

GAINING A AID AIDA BEN'S BEANS BEST BEAST BIT BAIT BY BAY
DRY DRAY GAIN AGAIN GOT GOAT MY AM Y SID SAID
STEM (stop) STEAM

LOSING B BAD AD BARMY ARMY BEND END BILL'S ILLS BIT IT
BLAKE'S LAKES BLESS LESS BOIL OIL BORDER ORDER
BOTHERS OTHERS BROOM ROOM

GAINING B ARGY BARGY ED'S BEDS ILL BILL IN BIN LACKS BLACKS
LAST BLAST LEW BLEW RIGHT BRIGHT TOM'S TOMBS
USES BUSES

LOSING C CALL ALL CAPE APE CHIP HIP CHOSE HOSE COVER OVER
CRAVES RAVES CROSS ROSS CRUSHES RUSHES

GAINING C ART'S CARTS ENTER CENTER (stage) HAIR CHAIR OLD COLD
SAM'S SCAMS

LOSING D DAD'S ADS DALE'S ALES DONE ONE DRAKE'S RAKES
DREADING READING DROLE ROLE HEROD'S HEROS
LEND LEN MAD MA PRUDE PRUE

GAINING D ATE DATE AVID DAVID HER HERD I'M DIM OILY DOILY

LOSING E BEAN BAN CHEER CHER CLEAN CLAN DEAD DAD DEAN DAN
EASTER ASTER FINE FIN FREED FRED HEAD (of school) HAD
HEAVEN'S HAVENS HOPE (a first name)'S HOPS HUGE HUG
KEEN KEN LEAD LAD MADE MAD MATE'S MATS MEAN MAN
NEAT NAT PALE PAL PETE'S PETS SAME SAM STEEP STEP

GAINING E BARD'S BEARDS BERT'S BERETS BLOW BELOW BRAD'S BREADS
BRET'S BERETS DAN'S DEANS DEN'S DENSE FIND FIEND
HAD HEAD HAL'S HEALS HEARS HEARSE JAN'S JEANS LAD'S LEADS
MAL'S MEALS NED'S NEEDS ON ONE PIP'S PIPES SAL'S SEALS
SAM'S SEAMS TIM'S TIMES (in races) TOM'S TOMES
WHAT WHEAT? WIN WINE

LOSING F FACES ACES (tennis) FED ED FEEL EEL FETCHING ETCHING
FINN'S INNS FRANK'S RANKS FREES REES

GAINING F AIR FAIRY ALL FALL INLAND FINLAND LUKE'S FLUKES
OUR FOUR RED FRED USES FUSES

<u>LOSING G</u>	GLEN'S LENS GONE ONE (time) GRACE'S RACES GRANT'S RANTS
<u>GAINING G</u>	FINER FINGER IN GIN OLD GOLD ONE GONE OWNS GOWNS ROUND GROUND
<u>LOSING H</u>	BETH'S BETS HAD AD HANDY ANDY HARM ARM HEATS EATS HIS IS HIT IT HOVER OVER LATHER LATER SHOWS SOWS THIN TIN
<u>GAINING H</u>	BATES BATHES I'M HIM IT HIT SAM'S SHAMS 'TIS THIS
<u>LOSING I</u>	CAIN CAN DEBIT DEBT ERIN ERN FIRED FRED GAIL'S GALS HAIL HAL IVAN'S VANS MAIN MAN MAIZE MAZE PILOT PLOT RAIN RAN TIED TED
<u>GAINING I</u>	ALED AILED BAT BAIT BRAD'S BRAIDS CAN CAIN? DES DIES DENSE DENISE FRED FRIED GENUS GEN IUS MARTIN'S MARTINIS MOVES MOVIES NOSE NOISE PAL'S PAILS SAL'S SAILS TED TIED WATER WAITER
<u>LOSING J</u>	JILL'S ILLS
<u>GAINING J</u>	ILL JILL I'M JIM
<u>LOSING K</u>	DUKE'S DUES LUCKY LUCY
<u>GAINING K</u>	BARS BARKS (no dogs allowed) I'D KID NOT KNOTS NOW KNOW
<u>LOSING L</u>	BLACK BACK CAMEL CAME CLAN CAN FLEET FEET KILT KIT LEDGE'S EDGES LEGO EGO LIMP IMP SLACK SACK SLIGHT SIGHT
<u>GAINING L</u>	ATE LATE COVER CLOVER EAVES' LEAVES OVER LOVER PAM'S PALMS PA'S PALS SAVE SLAVE WORD WORLD
<u>LOSING M</u>	MARIA'S ARIAS MATE ATE MENDS ENDS MORE ORE MORGAN'S ORGANS
<u>GAINING M</u>	EAT MEAT HAS HAMS OTHER MOTHER TRAP TRAMP
<u>LOSING N</u>	BROWN BROW DANTE'S DATES LONG LOG NEAR EAR NEARLY EARLY NEVER EVER NICE ICE TONY'S TOYS
<u>GAINING N</u>	AUSTRIA'S AUSTRIANS BAD BAND DINER'S DINNERS HAD HAND LAD'S LANDS ONE NONE PAT'S PANTS
<u>LOSING O</u>	FOUND FUND GOOD GOD OPEN PEN TORY TRY WOAD WAD
<u>GAINING O</u>	BAR BOAR BUY BUOY CANE CANOE CAT'S COATS GAL'S GOALS HER HERO JUST JOUST LAD'S LOADS SUP SOUP
<u>LOSING P</u>	PALE ALE PART ART PASS ASS PINCHES INCHES PINK INK PLOVER LOVER PLUGS LUGS (ears) PRICK RICK

<u>GAINING P</u>	ANDY PANDY ARTY PARTY WAS WASP OURS POURS (the gutter) RAM PRAM WAS WASP
<u>LOSING R</u>	BARN BAN BREAK BEAK BRUSH BUSH (as go past it) DOVER DOVE FIRST FIST GREEK GEEK MARRY MARY SHORT SHOT TORE TOE TORY'S TOYS TRIM TIM TRY TY
<u>GAINING R</u>	FED FRED FIGHT FRIGHT FONT FRONT GAVE GRAVE MA'S MARS (chocolate bar) PASTY PASTRY TIP TRIP USES RUSES
<u>LOSING S</u>	BEST BET LISTER'S LITERS LOST LOT POST POT SCOT'S COTS SEND END SHARP HARP SHOOK HOOK SHOW HOW SHUT HUT SLED LED SMACK MACK SOFTEN OFTEN SPINS PINS SPOTS POTS STABLE TABLE STALE TALE STAN'S TANS STARTS TARTS (baking) STOP TOP SUES SUE SUP UP SWING WING TAPS TAP THAT'S THAT WHATS WHAT WHO'S WHO
<u>GAINING S</u>	ALE SALE CAN SCAN CURE CURSE DOE DOES HAVE SHAVE HOT SHOT MILES SMILES KATE'S SKATES LACKS SLACKS LEIGH'S SLEIGHS MATER'S MASTERS MILES SMILES PA'S SPAS PAT SPAT PAT'S SPATS PECKS SPECKS PET PEST RUES RUSES TAKE STAKE TALL STALL (for horse) TANK STANK TORY STORY URGES SURGES WATER WASTER WET WEST
<u>LOSING T</u>	KENT KEN MAST'S MASS STACKS SACKS STEAM SEAM STIR SIR STOCKS SOCKS STOLE SOLE TEARS EARS THANK HANK THAT HAT THEIR HEIR THOSE HOSE (stockings) TURN URN
<u>GAINING T</u>	ALL TALL BEN BENT HEAR HEART HIS HITS HUGS THUGS I'M TIM IN TIN MISS MISTS OUR TOUR RAY'S TRAYS RICK'S TRICKS RIPE TRIPE ROD TROD ROUBLE TROUBLE SAVE STAVE SUE'S SUETS
<u>LOSING U</u>	CLOUT CLOT DUO DO LAUD LAD LOUD LOT PAUL'S PALS ROUSE ROSE TOURS TORS (hills)
<u>GAINING U</u>	FOR FOUR GOT GOUT HOSE HOUSE LOSE LOUSE PAL PAUL TOR (first name)'S TOURS
<u>LOSING V</u>	LIVE LIE VALE'S ALES
<u>GAINING V</u>	COE'S COVES DRIES DRIVES (for cars) RAE'S RAVES
<u>LOSING W</u>	WARM ARM WED ED WHAT HAT? WHIT'S HITS WILL'S ILLS WINCHES INCHES
<u>GAINING W</u>	EAR WEAR (muff) ED WED ILL WILL
<u>LOSING X</u>	MAXINE MAINE (a name)
<u>GAINING X</u>	BOE(Alfie -singer)'S BOXES COE'S COXES (for rowing) DION DIXON SEES SEXES

LOSING Y BURLY BURL EARLY EARL MARTY'S MARTS PAY PA
SANDY'S SANDS

GAINING Y DA'S DAYS HAS HAYS MA MAY

LOSING Z ZONE ONE

GAINING Z MAE'S MAZES ED'S ZEDS

ALTERNATE ADDITIONS

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Start by adding a single letter to the *beginning* of a 2- letter word to make a 3-letter word AN to RAN.
Then add a single letter (D) to the *end* of the 3-letter word to make a 4-letter word RAND.
Continue adding single letters alternately in this manner.

OR

Start by adding a single letter to the *end* of a 2- letter word to make a 3-letter word AT to ATE..
Then add a single letter (L) to the *beginning* of the 3-letter word to make a 4-letter word LATE..
Continue adding single letters alternately in this manner.

A N
R A N
R A N D
B R A N D
B R A N D Y

A T
A T E
L A T E
L A T E R
S L A T E R

O N
T O N
T O N E
S T O N E
S T O N E D

O R
O R E
P O R E
P O R E S
S P O R E S

I N
P I N
P I N E
S P I N E
S P I N E S

U S
U S E
M U S E
M U S E D
A M U S E D

A T
R A T
R A T E
C R A T E
C R A T E D

A N
R A N
R A N G
O R A N G
O R A N G E

I N
W I N
W I N E
T W I N E
T W I N E D

D A
A D A
A D A M
M A D A M
M A D A M S

I N
T I N
T I N T
S T I N T
S T I N T S

A T
A T E
R A T E
R A T E S
G R A T E S

INCREASING AND DECREASING

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The letters of a word are split into 3 groups. Assigning A =1, B = 2 etc, these increase by a constant amount.

PLUS 1

11 12 13 FE L LA

13 14 15 DI N O

14 15 16 BL O KE

17 18 19 BO ND S

18 19 20 R OD EO LEA S T CO S T

19 20 21 S T AT

20 21 22 T U RD

21 22 23 LI V ER

22 23 24 V ER SE

23 24 25 HO LL Y

28 29 30 MO ON ING

31 32 33 SL AVI NS (Slavin is a place and a surname)

4 letters / letter groups

16 17 18 19 FEE LE R S

17 18 19 20 PA R EN T

PLUS 2

14 16 18 MA KE R

17 19 21 PA S TA

19 21 23 S U RE

PLUS 3

9 12 15 HA L O
11 14 17 JA N ICE
13 16 19 M OA S AL P S LA P S DI P S
16 19 22 P AR CS
17 20 23 BAN T ER PA T ER
18 21 24 R U SE
19 22 25 S MI TE
20 23 26 T W AY (a surname)
21 24 27 TA SE BY (a place)
24 27 30 WA SH ING

PLUS 4

29 33 37 TI RO LY (a surname)

PLUS 5

20 25 30 T Y ING

PLUS 6

13 19 25 M AND Y

PLUS 7

5 12 19 E L AND

The letters of a word are split into 3 groups. Assigning A =1. B = 2 etc, these decrease by a constant amount.

MINUS 1

20 19 18 SA NE R
25 24 23 DU LL ER

MINUS 2

18 16 14 R OA N

MINUS 3

22 19 16 SC AR P

MINUS 4

31 27 23 PO SH ER

MINUS 5

23 18 13 VA ND AL

MINUS 6

25 19 13 PI NE AL

31 25 19 DRI NK S

MINUS 7

23 16 9 HO P ED

WORDS WITH ELEMENT SYMBOLS

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There are 118 chemical elements, and each one has a name, an atomic number, and a symbol. The symbols are composed of one or two letters. I wondered how easy it would be to find uncapitalized dictionary words containing each of the symbols. After some initial thoughts, I decided it would be helpful to split the symbols into seven groups, probably reflecting the ease or difficulty of finding appropriate words.

Here are the 118 symbols, listed in alphabetic order:

**Ac Ag Al Am Ar As At Au B Ba Be Bh Bi Bk Br C Ca Cd Ce Cf Cl Cm Cn Co Cr Cs
Cu Db Ds Dy Er Es Eu F Fe Fl Fm Fr Ga Gd Ge H He Hf Hg Ho Hs I In Ir K Kr La
Li Lr Lu Lv Mc Md Mg Mn Mo Mt N Na Nb Nd Ne Nh Ni No Np O Og Os P Pa
Pb Pd Pm Po Pr Pt Pu Ra Rb Re Rf Rg Rh Rn Ru S Sb Sc Se Sg Si Sm Sn Sr Ta Tb
Tc Te Th Ti Tl Tm Ts U V W Xe Y Yb Zn Zr**

The seven groups of symbols I decided on are these:

1. a single letter: **B C F H I K N O P S U V W Y**
2. a consonant followed by a vowel: **Ba Be Bi Ca Ce Co Cu Dy Fe Ga Ge He Ho La
Li Lu Mo Na Ne Ni No Pa Po Pu Ra Re Ru Se Si Ta Te Ti Xe**
3. a vowel followed by a consonant: **Ac Ag Al Am Ar As At Er Es In Ir Og Os Yb**
4. two vowels: **Au Eu**
5. two consonants, but looking easy to tackle: **Br Cl Cr Cs Ds Fl Fr Hs Kr Lv Nd Pr
Pt Rb Rf Rg Rh Rn Sc Sm Sn Tc Th Tl Ts**
6. two consonants, but initially looking more challenging: **Bh Bk Cd Cm Cn Db Fm
Gd Hf Hg Lr Md Mg Mn Mt Nb Nh Np Pb Pd Pm Sb Sg Sr Tb Tm**
7. two consonants, but definitely more challenging: **Cf Zn Zr**

You might disagree with whether particular symbols should be in group 5, 6 or 7 as my choices are purely subjective on first consideration of the individual symbols. But the choice doesn't really matter.

Group 1: Finding words containing each of these symbols is trivial. Perhaps a more interesting diversion is to find the longest word containing any of these symbols just once (**CHIBOUKS** and **CUSHIONY**) or containing repeats of these symbols (**INCONSPICUOUS** and **PSYCHOPHYSICS** are a couple of 13-letter examples). Another diversion is to find the smallest set of words which contains all these symbols, but no other letters (**COP FUNK VIBS WHY** fits the bill nicely).

Group 2: It's pretty easy finding words containing these symbols. Common words can be found beginning with each of the symbols, thus: **Bad Beg Bin Cat Cede Cog Dye Fed**

**Gap Gem Her Hot Lap Lid Lug Mob Nap New Nib Now Pat Pot Put Raw Red Run
Set Sin Tan Ten Tip Xenophobia**

Group 3: As with group 2, words can be found beginning with all these symbols, thus: **Ace Age Ale Amp Ark Ash Ate Era Espy Inn Irk Ogle Ostrich Ybrent**. The last of these is an obsolete word, and could be replaced by **maYbe**, although this doesn't begin with the **Yb** symbol.

Group 4: It isn't difficult to find words beginning with these two-vowel symbols, thus: **Aunt Eunuch**

Group 5: The symbols in this group all look like common enough digrams for words containing them to be easily findable, thus: **Brag Clap Cry tiCs biDs Fly Fry sigHs oKra haLve aNd Pry aPt baRb suRf uRge peRhaps eaRn Scan Smog Snip eTch They tiTle Tsar**

Group 6: At first sight, the digrams of these symbols mostly look awkward, but it's not too difficult to identify words containing these symbols, thus: **aBhor lamBkin aneCdote aCme aCne beDbug leaFmold kinGdom busHfire churchGoer waLrus guMdrop filMgoer hyMn dreaMt iNbred iNhale iNput cuPboard uPdate chiPmunk diSband diSguise diSrupt ouTbid liTmus**

(As I write this article in January 2020, **busHfires** are raging in parts of Australia.)

Group 7: These three symbols (**Cf Zn Zr**) look particularly challenging, and are worthy of a more in-depth discussion. There are no common, familiar words that satisfy these symbols. Let's look at each of the three symbols in turn. There are several capitalised words – proper names and geographical names – with these symbols, but I've chosen to ignore these and just concentrate on dictionary-listed words spelled with a lowercase initial letter.

Cf: **fliCflac** (a step in ballet; W3) **froliCful** (full of fun; W2 & OED) **maCfarlane** (a type of overcoat; W3) **paniCful** (fearful; W2 & OED) **traffiCful** (fully occupied with traffic; OED)

Zn: **baetZner** (a 16th century silver coin of Strasbourg; W2) **biZnaga** (a thorny cactus; W3) **haZnadar** (W2) **kibbutZnik** (a member of a collective farm in Israel; W3) **kolkhoZnik** (a member of a collective farm in Russia; W3) **kolkhoZniki** (a plural of **kolkhoZnik**; W3) **viZnaga** (a thorny cactus; W3)

Zr: **arZrunite** (W3) **miZrach/ miZrah** (the eastern wall of a synagogue; W3) **naZrana** (a present or tribute given to a superior; OED) **viZrea/viZree/viZrey/viZroy** (old spellings of viceroy; OED)

Footnote: words used in the above article have been restricted to uncapitalized words listed in the familiar dictionaries – Webster's Second and Third Editions, and the Oxford English Dictionary. But it's interesting to note that the online dictionary Wiktionary lists **attiCful**, **magiCful** and **musiCful**. Are there other words in online dictionaries containing the **Cf**, **Zn** and **Zr** digrams?

ADDING A THIRD VOWEL

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Begin with a word having two different vowels. Keeping the letters in the same order, add a third different vowel anywhere to make another word.

ADDING A

BERING - BEARING

BIDE - ABIDE

BOUND - ABOUND

BOUT - ABOUT

BUSES - ABUSES

CINE - CAINE

COSTING - COASTING

CROSTIC (surname) - ACROSTIC

DINE - DIANE

EDWIN - EDWINA

ERIC - ERICA

EROS - AEROS (chocolate)

FILED - FAILED

FIRED - FAIRED

FORE - AFORE

FRIED - FRIEDA

GROUND - AGROUND

HINTON - HANTON

HORSE - HOARSE

HUNTED - HAUNTED

IDES - AIDES

ISLES - AISLES

ITCHES - AITCHES

JONES - JOANES (a first name)

KITE - KAITE (a first name)

LICE - ALICE

LIGHTED - ALIGHTED

LINER - LINEAR

LIVE - ALIVE

LONE - ALONE

LOUD - ALOUD

LUNCHING - LAUNCHING

MIMED - MAIMED

MINE - MAINE

MUSES - AMUSES

NIVE (a river in France) - NAIVE

NODE - ANODE

ORTE (a town in Italy) - ORATE

PINTER (Harold) - PAINTER

PRISE - PRAISE

PUNCHES - PAUNCHES

QUINT (a musical instrument) - QUAIN

RECTOR - REACTOR
RIDER - RAIDER
RILED - RAILED
RISE - ARISE
RISE - RAISE
ROBERT - ROBERTA
ROSE - AROSE
ROSTER - ROASTER
ROUND - AROUND
SEÑOR - SEÑORA.
SIDE - ASIDE
STRIDE - ASTRIDE
SUNDER - ASUNDER
TILED - TAILED
TONE - ATONE
TUBER - TAUBER (surname)
UPON - AUPON (a first name)
VENUS - VENAUS (a place in Italy)
VOID - AVOID
WHILE - AWHILE
WOKE - AWOKE
YOUNG - YOUNGA (surname)
ZEUS - ZAEUS (surname)

ADDING E

AIDS - AIDES
ASTRID - ASTRIDE
BACON - BEACON
BATON - BEATON (Cecil)
BRAKING - BREAKING
CAIN - CAINE (Michael)
CLAIR - ÉCLAIR
DAMON - DAEMON
DONAT (Robert) - DONATE
FARING - FEARING
FASTING - FEASTING (opposites !)
GALLON - GALLEON
HARING - HEARING
HATING - HEATING
HUMAN - HUMANE
IDA - IDEA
JASMIN (place in Canada) - JASMINE
JOAN - JOANE (place in Portugal)
KORAN - KOREAN
LASHING - LEASHING
LION - ELION (surname)
LUPIN - LUPINE
MAIL - EMAIL
MAIN - MAINE
MAUD - MAUDE
NAIL - NAILE (place in Philippines)
OPAL - OPALE (place in Slovenia)
PAUL - PAULE (both names)
PLATING - PLEATING

QUIT - QUIET
QUIT - QUITE
RAIN - RAINE (surname)
RARING - REARING
SATIN - SATINE
SATING - SEATING
SHARING - SHEARING
TAMING - TEAMING
TOIL - TOILE (a fabric)
TRADING - TREADING
UNIT - UNITE
VITA (surname) - EVITA
VIVA - VIVAE (a reptile species name)
WAVING - WEAVING
YARNING - YEARNING
YASMIN (surname) - YASMINE (first name)
ZOAN (an ancient city in Egypt) - ZOANE (first name)

ADDING I

ALED - AILED
ANNE - ANNIE
ANON - ANION
BASED - BIASED
BABES - BABIES
CANE - CAINE
CARES - CARIES
CASTOR - CAISTOR (in Lincolnshire)
CHASE - CHAISE
DEAL - IDEAL
DOSSER - DOSSIER
DOZER - DOZIER
DUSTER - DUSTIER
EVAN - EVIAN
FREDA - FRIEDA (both names)
GENUS - GENIUS
HARDER - HARDIER
HERON - HEROIN
JANE - JAINE (a first name)
JULES - JULIE'S
KATE - KATIE
LANE - LAINE (surname)
MANE - MAINE
MAZE - MAIZE
MOVES - MOVIES
MUSTER - MUSTIER
NOSE - NOISE
OVEN - OVIEN (surname)
OVER - OVIER (place in France)
PAGE - PAIGE (surname)
PANTED - PAINTED
PATENT - PATIENT
PARED - PAIRED
PLATED - PLAITED
POSE - POISE

QUANT - QUAIN
RACER - RACIER
ROSE - ROSIE
SADE - SADIE
SENN (surname) - SIENNA
SENR - SENIOR
SOLDER - SOLDIER
SOLED - SOILED
STARED - STAIRED
TRADE - TIRADE
URON - URION (both surnames)
VOLE - VOILE
VOLENT (place in France) - VIOLENT
WASTED - WAISTED
WATER - WAITER
YALE - YALE (surname)
ZONE - ZONE (a first name)

ADDING O

ABUT - ABOUT
ANGEL - ANGELO
BASTED - BOASTED
BEAN - BEANO
CAME - CAMEO
CANE - CANOE
CASTING - COASTING
CLUED - CLUEDO
CURSE - COURSE
DINE - DIONE (place in Scotland)
EDMUND - EDMUNDO (Ross - band leader)
FILED - FOILED
FISTED - FOISTED
FLUTED - FLOUTED
FUNDER - FOUNDER
GENA (surname) - GENOA
HARDER - HOARDER
IDLE - IDOLE (place in Wales)
JANE - JOANE (a first name)
KALIN (a place in Iran) - KAOLIN
LINED - LOINED
LITER - LOITER
LUNGE - LOUNGE
MATED - MOATED
MISTER - MOISTER
MUSE - MOUSE
NILE - NIOLE (a first name)
PURER - POURER
QUIT - QUOIT
RANGE - ORANGE
RARING - ROARING
RATE - ORATE
RUSE - ROUSE
STATIN - STATION
SUPER - SOUPER

SURE - SOURE (place in Brazil)
SURER - SOURER
TASTED - TOASTED
TILED - TOILED
UNIN (a place in Poland) - UNION
VENUS - VENOUS
VICE - VOICE
VILE - VOILE
WEIRD - WEIRDO
YUNGER (surname) - YOUNGER

ADDING U

ASTIN (surname) - AUSTIN
AGE - AGUE
BONCE - BOUNCE
BONDING - BOUNDING
CASE - CAUSE
CRISES - CRUISES
DOSE - DOUSE
EROS - EUROS
FACET - FAUCET
FELLING - FUELLING
FONDER - FOUNDER
GAGE - GAUGE
HOSE - HOUSE
IVAN - IVAUN (surname)
JOLE (old 'jowl') - JOULE
KATE - KAUTE (surname)
LARA - LAURA
LOIS - LOUIS
LONGER - LOUNGER
LOSE - LOUSE
MADE - MAUDE
MAVE - MAUVE
MORNING - MOURNING
NERON (a company name) - NEURON
ONCE - OUNCE
OSEL (a Baltic island) - OUSEL (thrush)
PAPER - PAUPER
PENDING - UPENDING
PONCE - POUNCE
PONDER - POUNDER
REA (name of a river in Shropshire) - UREA
ROSE - ROUSE
ROTE - ROUTE
SANDERS - SAUNDERS
SAVE - SUAVE
TOPE (surname) - TOUPE
VALE - VALUE
WINES - WINEUS (surname)
YALE - YAULE (place in Uganda)
YONGER (surname) - YOUNGER
ZONE - ZOUNE (a first name)

HOMOPHONIC LETTER GROUPS - PLUS ONE, MINUS ONE

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THE 2ND WORD OF A 2-WORD PHRASE IS A HOMOPHONIC PRONUNCIATION OF THE FIRST WORD PLUS EITHER:

1. A FIRST LETTER (B in 'own Bone')

or

2. A LAST LETTER (S in 'Cy sighS')

PLUS

LETTER

A FOUR AFORE MORE AMOUR PEEL APPEAL PECKS APEX RAY'S ARRAYS
WEIGH AWAY

B ARM BALM EACH BEETCH EAT BEET I'D BIDE I BUY LINED BLIND
OLDER BOULDER OWNS BONES REACH BREECH RUDE BROOD RUE BREW

C ANN CAN ENTER CENTRE IDA'S CIDERS OWE COE RAY'S CAZE
ROSE CROWS

D EEL DEAL EIGHT DATE GREYS (horses) GRAZED D I'LL DIAL I DIE
OWE DOUGH

E FOUGHT EFFORT

F ABEL'S FABLES AIR FARE AYR FAIR EASE FEES EAT FEET (frog's legs)
I'LL FILE INGA'S FINGERS LACKS FLAX LOSE FLUS (chimney)
LOU FLEW OWES FOES

G EYES GUYS I'D GUIDE LOSE GLUS (chimney) LOU'S GLUES
ROO GREW ROSE GROWS

H ART'S HEARTS AXE HACKS ED'S HEADS I'D HIDE OWED HOAD

I DEAR IDEA

J AID JADE ON JOHN OWE JOE OWN JOAN

K EASE KEYS RAISE KRAY'S

L AIR'S LAYERS EACH LEETCH I LIE OWED LOAD OWN LOAN SEE SEAL L

M ABLE MABEL ARC MARK EEL MEAL OLD MOULD

N ODD NOD ON NONE USE NEW

O FUR OFFER SLOW OSLO

P ALE PAIL AUNT'S PANTS I'LL PILE OARS PAUSE OUR POWER

Q YOU QUEUE

R ANNE RAN ED READ EYES RISE I'D RIDE I'LL RILE OR RAW OWES ROSE

S AIRIER AREAS BARE BEARS BRAKE BREAKS CY SIGHS ED SAID
 ERN EARN\$ FOR FOUR\$ HEARD HERDS HER HAIRS I'D SIGHED
 I SIGH IN INNS KNEW NEWS LEAR LEERS MADE MAIDS MIGHT SMITE
 MISSED MISTS MORE MOORS NO SNOW NOT KNOTS ONE SWAN
 SAW SORES SEE SEAS SENT SCENTS SOME SUMS TAIL TALES
 TAKE STEAK TILE STYLE TORE TOR'S TOR TOURS THEY'RE THEIRS
 TY TIES WADE SWAYED WHICH SWITCH

T ABEL'S TABLES I'LL TILE I TIE MY MIGHT OUR TOWER OWN TONE
 RAISE TRAYS SEE SEAT TIE TIGHT WHICH TWITCH? WHIST TWIST

U CHER'S USHERS

V ANNE'S VANS I'D VIED YOU VIEW YOU'D VIEWED

W I'D WIDE (cricket)

X HOE HOAX

Y HUGH'S YEWS LAID LADY

Z OWNS ZONES

THE 2ND WORD OF A 2-WORD PHRASE IS A HOMOPHONIC PRONUNCIATION OF THE FIRST WORD MINUS EITHER

1. A FIRST LETTER (S in 'Swine whine')
- or
2. A LAST LETTER (T in 'soughT saw')

*MINUS
LETTER*

A ADORES DOORS ADORN DAWN AMOS MOSS ALIGN LINE ANY KNEE

B DAUB DOOR BREAK RAKE BAILS ALES BUYS EYES BRUISE ROOS

C CLARKE'S LARKS CAN ANNE? CRUDE ROOD (screen) CRUISE RUSE
CRIES RISE CY'S EYES

D LEAD LEE LOAD LOW SOLD SOLE HOLD WHOLE GOLD GOAL
DREAD RED DEER'S EARS DEAD ED DINAH'S DINER DI'S EYES

E ELY LEE ETHER THERE ELAINE'S LANES

F FAKE ACHE FRED READ FOLKS' OAKS FREIGHT RATE

G GAIL'S ALES GATE EIGHT GROWS ROSE GREW RUE GUY'S EYES
GREASE REECE GREAT RATE GEORGE'S ORGIES

H HEAVE EVE HAIL ALE HOAD OWED HEAD ED

I IRAQ'S RACKS ITALY'S TALLIES

J JAKE'S ACHES JACK'S AXE JOCK'S OX JAMES AIMS JAP'S APSE
JADE'S AIDES

K SEEK SEA KYLE'S ISLES

L DIAL DI FAIL FAY JAIL JAY MAIL MAY LEAD ED LEAVE EVE
PEEL PEA

M MARK'S ARCS, MYLEEN EILEEN (2 first names), MACK'S AXE, FORM FOUR
MAKE ACHE MY EYE

N NEW YOU

O OFFER FUR

P KEEP KEY PAUL'S AWLS POUR ORE PACKS AXE PETE'S EATS

Q QATAR ATTAR

R ROSE OWES RISE EYES RARE AIR

S AYR'S HEIR BANDS BANNED BEAU'S BOW BEATS BEET BRAKES BREAK
CZECH'S CHECK CY'S SIGH CAIN'S CANE CLARKE'S CLERK COLE'S COAL
DEAN'S DENE DEWS DUE DRUPE'S DROOP FINN'S FIN FLEAS FLEE
FLOES FLOW FLOOR'S FLAW FRANK'S FRANC HEELS HEAL HUGH'S HUE
JEAN'S GENE KEW'S QUEUE LEADER'S LIEDER MAIDS LORN'S LAWN
LOTT'S LOT MADE MAX'S MACK MALE'S MAIL MATT'S MAT NAT'S GNAT
ONES WON PAILS PALE PEER'S PIER PETE'S PEAT PLATT'S PLAIT
POLES POLL PUGH'S PEW RHODES (Cecil) RODE RUFFS ROUGH SAID ED
SAILS SALE SAME AIM SAUL'S SAW SEES SEA SIGHTS SITE
SHAKES SHEIKH SHOWED HOAD SAW ORE SHAUN (the sheep)'S HORNS
SHOULDER HOLDER SHOWS HOSE SLAP LAPP STALKS STORK STEALS STEEL
STU'S STEW SWEET WHEAT SWINE WHINE TY'S TIE TOR'S TOUR
WHALES WAIL WHIG'S WIG

T BEAT BEE CAUGHT CORE FOUGHT FOUR MEET ME SHORT SHORE
SOUGHT SAW TAWDRY AUDREY TIGHT TIE TOAD ODE TREAT TREE
TRIED RIDE TRY RYE

U UGLY GLEE

V VILE ISLE / AISLE VIEW YEW

W WADE'S AIDS WINS INNS WISE EYES

X COAX COE

Y YORK'S AUKS YOUR OAR

Z ZACK'S AXE

Seeing is Believing

David Shaw

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Seeing is believing
Parting is such sweet sorrow
The Taming of the Shrew
The Lady's not for Burning
Waiting for Godot
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
And it was evening and it was morning, the first day
In the beginning was the word
He has the makings of a real statesman
Price includes furnishings and fittings

In this mixture of familiar phrases the common element is that they all have words ending with the suffix *-ing*. For a native English speaker there is, on the surface, nothing remarkable about this collection: but for someone learning the language all, is not so straightforward. To start with, the ending *-ing* covers both the participle of the related verb as well as a variety of nouns, not only simple verbal nouns expressing the activity that the verb conveys but also events and objects that can be related in different ways. This does not appear to have a parallel in other languages.

Even the humble participle is used in a special way. In the phrase 'I'm dreaming' an ongoing (imperfect) activity is denoted, which differs from the ordinary present tense 'I dream'. Some languages, such as French, have a *past* imperfect tense, but English does past present and future, giving a richer range of expression, as in –

Did/do/will you have to disturb me when I was/am/will be working?

Probably all verbs – except 'auxiliaries like *can, most, may* – are able to produce their related verbal noun (gerund) using the *-ing* suffix. This gerund can be the subject or object of a sentence and can be introduced by a preposition such as *in, by, for*, and also by the word *of*, and can be qualified by an adjective. Some gerunds from intransitive verbs, like *reacting, tumbling, wading*, do not have a usage extending beyond this: others do. Although we would not say 'The reacting is inappropriate', we can certainly use the definite article in saying 'The waiting is over', or 'the fighting has become widespread'. This enables us to express more concerning the activity than just talk about it generically such as saying it is good or bad: we can refer to a specific example of that activity.

We can actually have two closely similar ways of saying the same thing, although they are grammatically different. For instance, the party could be cancelled 'due to me becoming ill' or 'due to my becoming ill'. The listener would accept these as equivalent expressions.

There has been, then, a move towards usage of the noun in more 'concrete' meanings. The Taming of the Shrew refers to a series of events and processes leading up to the achievement of the shrew being tamed. As an instance of how the same word can have progressively more and more concrete meanings, consider the following –

Opening a can of beans, I cut my finger (participle)

Opening a can of beans can be risky (gerund)

I attended the opening of the new wing (an event)

A doorway is an opening in a wall (a physical thing)

There could be an opening in my firm for you (a metaphorical doorway).

Such 'meaning creep' actually goes further. In 'Furnishings and Fittings' the nouns are not denoting activities or events but the **results** of those activities. In other words, the nouns formed from a verb in the **active** 'voice' have taken on a **passive** sense. A building is the result of the process of building, and trimmings are what are produced by the process of trimming something. Another oddity is that some of the more 'concrete' nouns are only used in the plural. We talk of *belongings* but not of a single *belonging*, and likewise with *furnishings*, *takings*, *goings-on* and *winnings*.

Apart from all this, there are some nouns that appear not to have come from verbs in the first place. *Evening* is not a word we relate to a verb *to even*, nor is *morning* from *to morn* (nor *gloaming* from *to gloam*). More recent formations such as *guttering*, *scaffolding* and *lettering* have also been drawn into the same use of the suffix attached to a **noun** rather than to a verb, denoting an area of expertise or the application of a skill.

So it is clear that the simple verbal noun or gerund has been seized upon to perform an extended range of functions in the language, increasing its capability to express an extended range of thoughts. But how, to begin with, did the same suffix come to be used for both participles and nouns, which in other languages are kept distinct? Apparently in Old English (Anglo-Saxon, up to the 12th century) these two parts of speech followed the German pattern that still exists today, the participle having the suffix *–end* and the verbal noun having the suffix *–ung* (from German music we have Mendelssohn's instruction *nicht schleppend* and Wagner's 'Goetterdaemmerung'). The dictionary says that in Old English, the word for *evening* was *aefnung* and the word for *morning* was *morgenung*. These look like verbal nouns but, whether they are, and if so what verbs they derive from, can be left to the experts.

Anyway, during the following generations these two endings merged into the one suffix *–ing*, leading to the present ungrammatical-looking state of affairs. We normally accept these anomalies without the slightest worry. So much for grammar!

AFTERWORDS

incredible
Sixty - Adventures In Logology
For The Connoisseur

STEVEN KAHAN

This book can be purchased through skalpha@aol.com for \$19.99, including shipping.

INTRODUCTION

As far as introductory remarks are concerned, there is really not much to be said here that hasn't already been said in the previous ten volumes of this series. Consequently, I'll say very little except to warmly welcome you back with *Afterwords*, my eleventh compilation of sixty word puzzles designed to make you stop and think and think some more.

I dedicate this book to my lifelong friend and partner in crime, Stephen Noel Brett. Your rapier-sharp wit never ceases to amaze me and invariably puts a broad smile on my face. Despite the fact that different mothers bore us, you are truly my brother. I love you, Stevelah!

Steven Kahan

BOOSTER SHOTS

Some of the *injections* administered in *Spreading The Word* are now in need of follow-ups, so the first five puzzles provide the requisite *booster shots*. Recall that the responses to the clues in Column B result from those in Column A after a single specified consonant is inserted into their interiors. To wit, if "compels" were in Column A and "surgical tongs" in Column B, an appropriately-placed "P" would transform FORCES into FORCEPS. The accompanying subtitles indicate the consonant to be injected in each instance.

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| PUZZLE 1: | IT'S "L"EMENTARY |
| PUZZLE 2: | THAT'S "N"TERAINMENT |
| PUZZLE 3: | SOME "R" AND "R" |
| PUZZLE 4: | "S"PECIALLY SATISFYING |
| PUZZLE 5: | EXPER"T"S REQUIRED |

PUZZLE 1 (SOLUTION: PAGE 99)

COLUMN A

- (A) minor fault
- (B) zealously pursued goal
- (C) smile in a coy manner
- (D) paper packages
- (E) bombastic
- (F) hauled ashore
- (G) ill-bred individual
- (H) swimmer
- (I) to the fullest extent
- (J) discarding
- (K) card game
- (L) assuages
- (M) necessary
- (N) shaded recess
- (O) seriously
- (P) eyelid inflammations
- (Q) starter of a business
- (R) sweet dessert
- (S) obliging act
- (T) adhesive label

COLUMN B

- (1) derby hat
- (2) as long as, old style
- (3) kingdoms
- (4) nonsensical talk
- (5) most unruly
- (6) waving vigorously
- (7) fashions
- (8) more fundamental
- (9) distinctive taste
- (10) whitened
- (11) fruit-filled sweetened dough
- (12) having a raspy sound
- (13) provision in a document
- (14) unyieldingly insistent person
- (15) act clumsily
- (16) amiable
- (17) teased
- (18) upright display frames
- (19) expressionless
- (20) making muddy

PUZZLE 2 (SOLUTION: PAGE 100)

COLUMN A

- (A) swerving off course
- (B) separated into pieces
- (C) prods
- (D) endorse one's signature
- (E) account for
- (F) like a childish complaint
- (G) standup comedian
- (H) legal constraints
- (I) punters
- (J) ancient marketplace
- (K) classifying
- (L) entryways
- (M) secular code of law
- (N) filled to capacity
- (O) agonizing struggles
- (P) dressed in an outfit
- (Q) inexpensive eatery
- (R) long, deep cuts
- (S) artistic
- (T) iron is one

COLUMN B

- (1) long bloomers
- (2) sign of fatigue
- (3) functional shelf prop
- (4) sheets and pillowcases
- (5) formal meal
- (6) charitable contributors
- (7) neigh
- (8) agent that causes loss of sensatio
- (9) sex organs
- (10) devoid of data
- (11) entrust
- (12) grinds one's teeth
- (13) domestic long-haired cat
- (14) big gun
- (15) type of telepathy
- (16) stock bonus
- (17) hoodlum
- (18) exalted seats
- (19) breathing noisily
- (20) emphasize

PUZZLE 1

(A)	FAILING	(6)	FLAILING
(B)	CAUSE	(13)	CLAU <u>S</u> E
(C)	SIMPER	(8)	SIMPL <u>E</u> R
(D)	REAMS	(3)	REAL <u>M</u> S
(E)	GASSY	(19)	GLASS <u>Y</u>
(F)	BEACHED	(10)	BLEACH <u>E</u> D
(G)	PEASANT	(16)	PLEASANT
(H)	BATHER	(4)	BLATH <u>E</u> R
(I)	WIDEST	(5)	WILDE <u>S</u> T
(J)	DUMPING	(11)	DUMPL <u>I</u> NG
(K)	WHIST	(2)	WHIL <u>S</u> T
(L)	EASES	(18)	EASE <u>S</u>
(M)	NEEDED	(17)	NEED <u>E</u> D
(N)	BOWER	(1)	BOWL <u>E</u> R
(O)	GRAVELY	(12)	GRAVEL <u>L</u> Y
(P)	STYES	(7)	STYL <u>E</u> S
(Q)	FOUNDER	(15)	FLOUNDER
(R)	PUDDING	(20)	PUDDL <u>I</u> NG
(S)	FAVOR	(9)	FLAV <u>O</u> R
(T)	STICKER	(14)	STICK <u>L</u> ER

PUZZLE 2

(A)	YAWING	(2)	YAW <u>N</u> ING
(B)	DIVIDED	(16)	DIVID <u>E</u> ND
(C)	GOADS	(9)	GON <u>A</u> DS
(D)	COSIGN	(11)	CON <u>S</u> IGN
(E)	UNDERLIE	(20)	UNDER <u>L</u> INE
(F)	WHINY	(7)	WHIN <u>N</u> Y
(G)	GAGSTER	(17)	GANG <u>A</u> STER
(H)	LIENS	(4)	LIN <u>E</u> NS
(I)	KICKERS	(1)	KN <u>I</u> CKERS
(J)	AGORA	(13)	ANG <u>A</u> RA
(K)	SORTING	(19)	SN <u>O</u> RTING
(L)	DOORS	(6)	DON <u>O</u> RS
(M)	CANON	(14)	CANN <u>O</u> N
(N)	BOOKED	(3)	BOOK <u>E</u> ND
(O)	THROES	(18)	THRONE <u>S</u>
(P)	UNIFORMED	(10)	UNIN <u>F</u> ORMED
(Q)	DINER	(5)	DINN <u>E</u> R
(R)	GASHES	(12)	GN <u>A</u> SHES
(S)	AESTHETIC	(8)	AN <u>E</u> STHETIC
(T)	METAL	(15)	MENT <u>A</u> L

Visual symmetry in Chinese writing

Paul Jackson

Jacksonville, Florida

The writing system of Modern Standard Chinese is logographical; each writing unit (a “character”) fundamentally represents a monosyllabic word in the precursor language(s) which evolved into Chinese. However, most modern Chinese words are bisyllabic, being composed of two logographs, each one having once been an individual word. It is worth noting that even today each syllable does carry separable and identifiable semantic content which can at times stand alone, or more often be combined with other logographs to create novel constructions: while 火 is “fire” and is 山 “mountain”, the combination gives us 火山 “volcano”. Of course, within the logographs themselves we find that components appear again and again. Take, for example, the component 立 within 童, 音, 龍, 煜, and 竖.

This ever-evolving logographic alchemy leaves us with a large number of visual forms to draw our interest. For centuries, the prevailing writing forms, using brush and ink, valued aesthetic asymmetry, even as the idealized form of logographs were clearly symmetrical. In the modern era of mass printing and computerized fonts, we are free to more clearly access that symmetry and reproduce it here. I present a non-exhaustive list of visually symmetrical Chinese logographs (simplified and traditional forms liberally mixed in), which are symmetrical along either the x-axis or the y-axis:

一 yī one

三 sān three

且 qiě moreover

丙 bǐng third of ten in the first portion of the sexagenary cycle

业 yè enterprise

中 zhōng center

丰 fēng abundant

二 èr two

互 hù mutual

亚 yà inferior

亞 yà inferior

僂 bó (name of an ethnic group)

全 quán all

八 bā eight

共 gòng common

关 guān mountain pass

其 qí its

具 jù tool

典 diǎn canon

冈 gāng ridge

冒 mào to emit

冥 míng dark

凤 fèng phoenix

凶 xiōng terrible

由 yóu clod of dirt

凸 tū convex

凹 āo concave

出 chū to go out

匡 kuāng to rectify

十 shí ten

半 bàn half

又 yòu also

变 biàn to change

口 kǒu mouth

古 gǔ ancient

只 zhǐ only

合 hé to join

吉 jí auspicious

否 ǒu to negate

呆 dāi foolish

呕 ǒu vomit

匡 kuāng (onomatopoeia for a crashing sound)

啬 sè stingy

喜 xǐ to be fond of

回 huí to return

困 kùn sleepy

固 gù hard

土 tǔ soil

圣 shèng holy

圭 guī jade tablet

垠 yān embankment

诳 kuāng to whitewash

堂 táng large hall/chamber

墓 mù grave

大 dà big

天 tiān day

夫 fū husband

央 yāng center

奉 fèng to offer (tribute)

富 fù rich

山 shān mountain

岗 gǎng mound

崮 gù steep-sided flat-topped mountain

工 gōng work

巨 jù huge

巫 wū shaman

干 gān dry

平 píng flat

幸 xìng fortunate

廿 niàn twenty

支 zhī to support

日 rì sun

旦 dàn dawn

早 zǎo early

旱 hàn drought

昌 chāng prosperous

昔 xī former times

普 pǔ general

晶 jīng crystal

曲 qū bent

曼 màn handsome

曾 céng previously

木 mù wood

未 wèi not yet

末 mò tip

本 běn roots

杏 xìng apricot

束 shù to bind

来 lái to come

杰 jié hero

果 guǒ fruit

某 mǒu some

栗 lì afraid

桑 sāng mulberry tree

父 fù father

爻 yáo lines on a trigram

爽 shuǎng bright

王 wáng monarch

甘 gān sweet

田 tián field

由 yóu to follow

画 huà to draw

百 bǎi hundred

皿 mǐn dish

目 mù eye

直 zhí straight

眶 kuàng eye socket

立 lì to stand

童 tóng child

米 mǐ rice

羊 yáng sheep

羔 gāo lamb

舍 shě to give up

艾 ài wormwood

咩 miǎ to bleat

苗 miáo sprout

苜 mù clover

苦 kǔ bitter

英 yīng hero

苴 jū sack cloth

茔 yíng a grave

草 cǎo grass

荣 róng glory

菩 pú herb

莖 yíng polish

谷 gǔ grain

豆 dòu bean

里 lǐ within

量 liáng to measure

金 jīn metal

非 fēi to not be

风 fēng wind

黑 hēi black

鼎 dǐng tripod-cauldron

Wordage

Roger E. Rondeau
Dayton, Ohio

While thumbing a ride through the dictionary, I came across some 'age' words. Age is defined as the amount of time a person has lived and is also a stage of life; a time span. If I were a lexicographer, this is how I would define many of them.

Bandage – The time of life when adolescents turn garages into echo chambers

Bondage – Anytime people spend quality time together

Message – The terrible twos

Creepage – The terrible threes

Hermitage – The life span of a loner

Image – Adolescent time spent Instant Messaging

Leakage – Diaper time for babies

Seepage – Diaper time for seniors

Potage – Follows the diaper age

Linkage – The time of life wasted on golf courses

Manage – Begins at 21 for males – and often much later.

Package – The four year time span of high school cliques

Parentage – The time of life when the real fun begins and leads to the pillage

Pillage – The time of life for stress relief

Poundage – Weight watching time span

Spoilage – Any time, especially during puberty

Roughage – Teen years, often; parenting years, for sure.

Usage – The life span of the 'us' generation; a subset of the 'me' generation

Wreckage – Time of life when learning to drive

Shortage – pre-puberty time span

Shrinkage – post-middle age time span

Plumage - the best years of your life

Roughage - the worst years of your life

CAUCUS RACE PUZZLE MASTER

Sam Stucky (Student)
Zionsville, Indiana

	Mouse	Eaglet	Lory	Dodo	Duck	Alice
Thimble						X
Raspberry			X			
Blueberry		X				
Strawberry					X	
Orange				X		
Grape	X					
5 Minutes					X	
10 Minutes		X				
15 Minutes			X			
20 Minutes	X					
25 Minutes						X
30 Minutes				X		

	Mouse	Eaglet	Lory	Dodo	Duck	Alice
Thimble						
Raspberry						
Blueberry						
Strawberry						
Orange						
Grape						
5 Minutes						
10 Minutes						
15 Minutes						
20 Minutes						
25 Minutes						
30 Minutes						

Alice and her new animal acquaintances are running a caucus race to dry themselves off! Use the following clues to determine how long each participant ran during the race, and which flavor comfit (or other miscellaneous content of Alice's pocket) each one received at the end.

1. The dodo, being the enthusiastic organizer of the race, ran the longest.
2. The one who ran the least amount of time got a strawberry comfit.
3. Wanting to best the lory after their earlier encounter, Alice ran ten minutes more than that raspberry comfit recipient.
4. Only one bird ran more than half the race, and that bird got an orange comfit.
5. The mouse outran the lory but not Alice.
6. The eaglet, being young, could not even run half the race, but still got his favorite flavor of blueberry.
7. Alice, being unlike the others, won the prize that was unlike the others.

9,3-Configuration Puzzle

William Howard (STUDENT)
Carmel, Indiana

For this project, I decided to create a configuration puzzle. I was inspired by the puzzles Jeremiah had presented to the class and wanted to work my way through creating my own. I came up with my own phrase “Martin Rules”. From this phrase, I struggle to make 9 unique words that did not have more than one letter in common. It took me several attempts because once I thought I had nine unique words, it would turn out I had multiple words with two letters in common. I attempted to use my favorite structure, a hexagon, to create nodes in which to lay the words on. However, I could not come up with my own solution that I was sure was correct, so I decided to use O’Beirne’s Mousetrap as the template since I had read a lot about it.

I usually prefer to engage in projects that allow me to produce works of art as I generally do not get to do so as a biology major. However, after learning about configuration puzzles in class, I was intrigued. I have always enjoyed puzzles and find them to be entertaining. The puzzles we attempted in class were Jeremiah’s Celebration of Mind 13,3 configuration puzzle and his Norwich Bumstead Puzzle. It was difficult for me to solve these puzzles which led to my desire to become better at solving configuration puzzles. However, I could only stand to make a 9,3-configuration. I took the phrase, “Gardner Rules” and used the 9 unique letters to create 9 unique words to be used on an O’Beirne’s Mousetrap, my favorite design that we learned of in class.

This project is inspired by the numerous amount of works popularized and added to by Martin Gardner. It is also inspired heavily by Jeremiah Farrell, and the puzzles that he has created. I created my own phrase “Martin Rules” in order to gain the letters for my configuration puzzle. From this phrase I made 9 unique words using each letter 3 times, with no two words sharing more than one letter in common. I also attempted to create several different board pieces in which to place the nodes, however this was too difficult for me as I am not well enough educated on the theory behind the configuration puzzles. I wasn’t sure if my ideas would work so I opted to use the O’Beirne Mousetrap which I have read a lot about.

Through completion of this project I feel I have achieved the research and creativity goal as well as the willingness to explore new areas of knowledge. I read some papers by Jeremiah about configurations and mousetrap and tried looking into other author’s explanations of such games. I struggled coming up the 9 unique words since it was hard for me to use every letter three times and make sure the words did not have more than one letter in common.

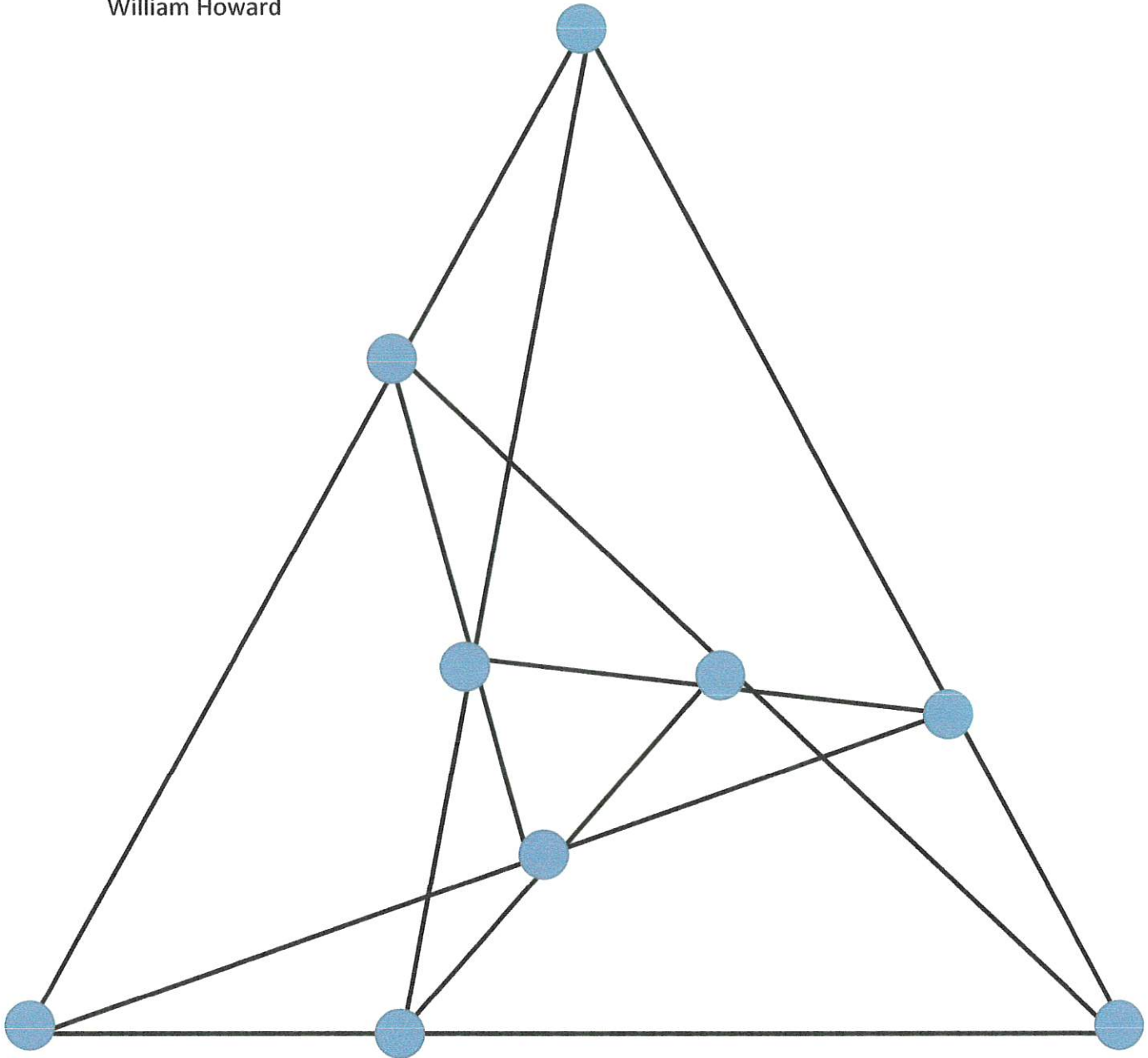
Hints

The diagram shows a large triangle with three vertices marked by blue dots. A green line segment connects the top vertex to a point on the base. A yellow line segment connects the bottom-left vertex to a point on the right side. Several other black lines connect various points on the sides and interior of the triangle, forming a complex network of smaller triangles and quadrilaterals.

Hints

The diagram shows a large triangle with three vertices marked by blue dots. A green line segment connects the top vertex to a point on the base. A yellow line segment connects the bottom-left vertex to a point on the right side. Several other black lines connect various points on the sides and interior of the triangle, forming a complex network of smaller triangles and quadrilaterals.

William Howard



A 9,3-configuration puzzle using nine unique letters from the phrase "Gardner Rules".

RUG, SUD, NEG, RAN, SEL, LAD, RED, SAG, NUL

Arrange the words on the nodes of O'Beirne's Mousetrap in a way that all the connected nodes have a letter in common.

Cut out the words below

RUG SUD NEG RAN SEL LAD RED SAG NUL

POLYOMINO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Emily Pool (STUDENT)

LaJolla, California

I have created a two-ways-to-play crossword puzzle all about the puzzles we have discussed in class. The first way to play is just a normal crossword, where you get the blank puzzle and the clues and are expected to solve for the completed words. The second way to play is to arrange the polyominoes in accordance with the given clues to form the structure of the solved crossword. I chose to create a polyomino crossword puzzle because I really enjoy crossword puzzles but have never solved one in this fashion. Polyominoes and similar puzzles like tangrams are also interesting to me, so I thought to combine these topics in one project to share with the class. I like to solve crossword puzzles through apps on my phone, and sometimes I pretend to have enough life experience to solve the New York Times crosswords, but I never finish those. This project allowed me to explore that appreciation and apply it to my coursework.

To create the crossword, I first thought of the answers and clues. All the answers I chose were types of puzzles we talked about over the course of this semester, or of parts of those puzzles. For instance, “deckofcards”—no spaces—and “hexaflexagons”. This way, the puzzle would be as much of a review of the semester as it is a puzzle. I tried to make some clues obvious and some easy so that everyone would get a challenging puzzle but for the puzzle to be solvable within a relatively short time span (5-15 minutes) so more people in the class can have a chance to play.

This project has obvious connections with Martin Gardner; all the answers and clues are either about his writings (one answer is “scientificamerican”!) or the puzzles about which he wrote in any of his publications. This way, anyone attempting the puzzle would review all that we have discussed this semester, from card puzzles and magic squares to word puzzles to last week’s hexaflexagon presentation. I do hope I haven’t forgotten anything major to add in to the puzzle, but the major categories of puzzles are included.

An Honors Program goal I addressed by creating this project includes interactive, discussion-oriented inquiry because this project is intended to provoke the puzzle-solver into thinking about both the clues—Martin Gardner’s writings/puzzles—and the spatial arrangement and interactions of the polyominoes in the crossword puzzle. The project used a lot of research and creativity, because though primarily the puzzle is a creative endeavor, I had to use the entire semester’s research and class learnings to create the puzzle. Finally, the last Honors Program goal included with this work is that of a willingness to explore new areas of knowledge. I was excited to use a mixture of sized polyominoes as an innovative way to solve a crossword, and I learned a lot about them while researching what was “acceptable” for a polyomino project.

In all, this was a really fun project to put together. I sincerely hope that everyone enjoys putting together the crossword as polyominoes, but if they do not like crosswords, I will still have the option available for them to solve the clues using the conventional crossword scaffold. The works and writings of Martin Gardner are clearly reflected in this work and will give all puzzle-solvers the opportunity to review the puzzles and themes covered in the course.

Martin Gardner Crossword & Polyomino Puzzle—Emily Pool

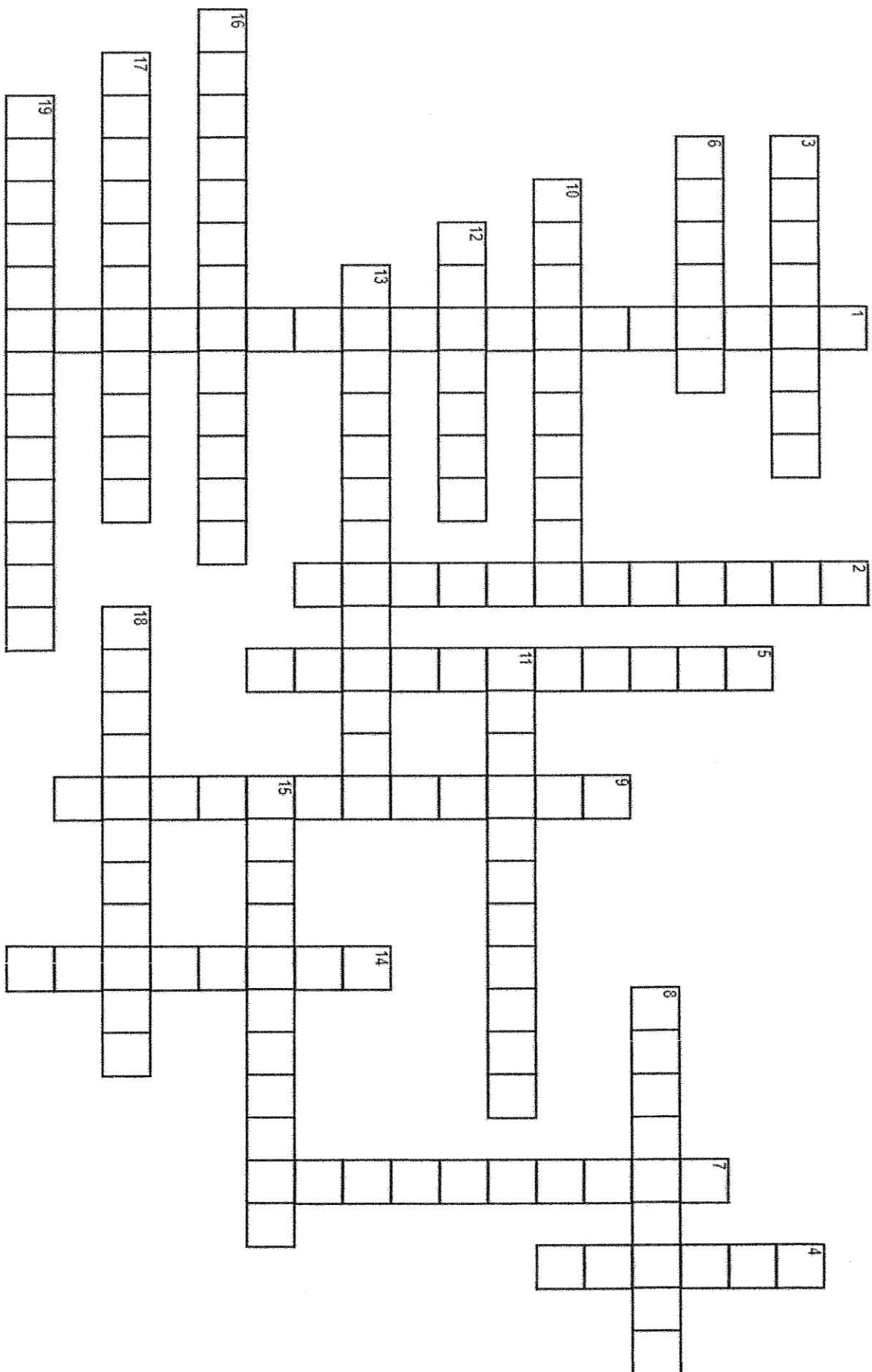
There are two ways to play: one, as a simple crossword, and two, as a polyomino puzzle which when solved shows the correct crossword shape. The answer for each method is the same. The clue answers are all things Martin Gardner wrote about and things we discussed and worked through during class. Think of it as a fun game to review the entire course using a word/configuration/polyomino puzzle!

ACROSS

- 3 A 3-D solid dissection puzzle which, when completed, forms a cube.
- 6 "and the coconuts"
- 8 A game where you have to get from one edge to the opposite edge.
- 10 The same backwards as sa draw kcab emas eht.
- 11 A single-surfaced continuous loop.
- 12 The art of geometric paper-folding.
- 13 The board is shaped like a star, and you can move forward, diagonally, or horizontally-or jump to capture the other player's pieces.
- 15 A word puzzle that seems like it has a simple solution, but the puzzle has probably out-witted you.
- 16 The orientation, order, or arrangement of pieces in relation to each other.
- 17 We needed one of these to solve puzzles during the first few weeks of class.
- 18 A math puzzle, can be solved by "knight jumps".
- 19 The man, the myth, the legend.

DOWN

- 1 The magazine in which Martin Gardner published his work.
- 2 A flat model which can be flexed or folded to reveal different faces.
- 4 A way of encoding a message.
- 5 A planar geometric figure formed by joining one or more equal squares edge to edge.
- 7 A puzzle... made of words.
- 9 We (unfortunately) got one of this type of puzzle with an IU logo on it.
- 14 A set of seven flat shapes which fit together to make a picture.



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